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U.S. 'COVERING UP ITS TRACKS' ON ARMS TALKS

PM072006 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Jan 84 First Edition p 5

[Editorial Article: "Washington Is Covering Up Its Tracks"]

[Text] It has long been known in criminology that when covering up their tracks the criminal and his accomplices always try to put the investigator on a wrong trail.

Something of the sort is now happening with the U.S. Administration, which late in November 1983 torpedoed the talks on the limitation of nuclear arms in Europe by starting the deployment of U.S. nuclear missiles near the borders of the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community. Washington is stubbornly trying to convince the public in the world and in the United States that it is supposedly Moscow that is to blame for the failure of the talks.

Top government leaders, important officials from the Pentagon and Department of State constantly appear on television screens and on the pages of periodicals in their futile attempts to prove that black is white and vice versa. With the same purpose the former head of the U.S. delegation in Geneva, Paul Nitze, is rushing about Europe and making speeches steeped in lies. All these inventions are being zealously parroted by those allies of the United States in NATO who obsequiously participated in the betrayal of European interests. Some people in the FRG are trying particularly had in this respect.

The following circumstances attract attention. All these speeches, interviews and statements are cast in a single mold. They stubbornly repeat several theses that had been invented in advance by the propaganda team of the Pentagon and the U.S. Department of State on the eve of the torpedoing of the talks which had long been planned in NATO. This team -- the NATO Special Consultative Group, also consisting of some misinformation specialists from Bonn and a number of other NATO capitals, put out a report that contained the cliches that all representatives of the West should use both in public statements and in diplomatic conversations.

First. An attempt is made to prove that the deployment of the American Pershing II and cruise missiles in a number of West European countries supposedly was needed to remove a mythical "imbalance not in NATO's favor" in the alignment of all medium-range nuclear arms and to liquidate the Soveit Union's "monopoly" in the field of missiles of this range.

Let us begin with the contentions about the "inequality" in nuclear forces in Europe. Before it became necessary for Washington to whitewash its one-sided position at the talks stemming from the demand for the liquidation of Soviet medium-range missiles and the deployment of U.S missiles, the existence of a rough parity in this class of European arms between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization has been admitted in official documents both by the United States and NATO. This fact in effect was confirmed also in 1979 when the known NATO decision on "rearmament" was adopted. The statement issued by the NATO Council in December 1979 did not say a word about the existence of inequality and only expressed "anxiety" over some "tendencies" the NATO countries had seen in the modernization of Soviet medium-range arms.

The existence of a rough parity in nuclear arms in Europe was confirmed by many leaders in the West, including FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, American General Rogers, also subsequently, right up to September 1981 after which U.S. President Ronald Reagan proposed his "zero option."

It was at this moment, in the desire to substantiate this absurd option according to which the USSR was to have destroyed all its medium-range missiles while the NATO countries were not to liquidate a single one of their medium-range nuclear weapons, that use was made of the lying thesis about the supposedly violated balance of nuclear forces in Europe in favor of the USSR.

But the facts are such that even today there remains an approximate balance of the medium-range nuclear weapons of the USSR and the NATO countries. While the USSR has somewhat more delivery vehicles of these weapons, NATO has an elmost 50-percent edge in warheads.

Now about the notorious "monopoly" of the USSR on medium-range missiles that is time and again referred to by Washington and also by some other Western capitals. According to normal logic, monopoly means that what one side has is not possessed by the other side. So if we are to believe these contentions then missiles exist only in the possession of the USSR. But then have the nuclear missiles of Britain and France disappeared? And since they really exist what Soviet missile monopoly can we speak about? Among the other absurd theses of Western propaganda this evidently is the most absurd one.

And generally speaking, what is the worth of talk about the need "to restore balance," about the Soviet missile "monopoly" in light of the concrete proposals directed at achieving accord that were made by the Soviet Union in Geneva? For the Soviet Union expressed readiness to have in Europe not one medium-range missile, not one warhead, not one corresponding nuclear-capable aircraft in excess of the number possessed by the countries of the North Atlantic bloc. The USSR proposed equality on a much lower level than exists now. By not accepting this proposal the United States demonstrated once again that it is exactly equality that did not suit it. Acquisition of superiority on a regional and global scale has been and remains the aim of the United States.

Second. Trying to present in a false light the Soviet Union's approach to the problem of limiting nuclear arms in Europe, the already-mentioned NATO team of misinformers invented a thesis about the alleged violation by the USSR of the undertaking unilaterally assumed by it in March 1982 to suspend -- that is, to impose a moratorium on -- the deployment of medium-range nuclear arms in the European part of the country.

Here too we have a clear case of cheating by the authors of the report, the more so that they are so tightlipped about the extreme negative position of the United States on the question of the moratorium. The matter is that at the very beginning of the talks, in October 1980, the Soviet Union proposed the imposition of a moratorium on the deployment of new medium-range nuclear-missile weapons in Europe. The aim of that proposal was self-evident. Its fulfillment would have not only stabilized the confronting forces but would have objectively created favorable prerequisites for reaching accord on the reduction of the nuclear arsenals already stockpiled by the sides.

The United States rejected this proposal because it would have blocked the road to Europe for U.S. missiles. When rejecting it, Washington also confirmed the groundlessness of NATO's "anxiety" about "tendencies" in the development of Soviet medium-range weapons. For were NATO really "concerned" what could be better -- in the absence of an accord -- than the introduction of a moratorium putting an end to the imaginary "tendencies"?

Early in 1982, pursuing the same aim of making easier the attainment of a fair agreement on a radical reduction of the nuclear arms of both sides in Europe and wishing to show a good example, the Soviet leadership adopted the decision to introduce unilaterally a moratorium on the deployment of medium-range nuclear arms in the European part of the USSR. The arms already deployed there were frozen quantitatively and qualitatively while the replacement of old missiles with the newer SS-20's was suspended. These measures were spread also to those areas beyond the Urals from which Soviet missiles could reach the FRG and other West European countries. In addition to this it was announced that the USSR would also reduce unilaterally a certain number of its medium-range missiles.

As a result of the measures taken by the Soviet Union in its display of goodwill the number of its missiles in Europe was cut from almost 600 to 473. A type of medium-range ballistic missile such as the SS-5 was phased out altogether. In the process the total yield of all warheads on Soviet medium-range missiles was almost halved. Throughout this time the moratorium introduced by us was undeviatingly and fully observed.

These facts are well known in the United States and in other NATO countries. As for the crude insinuations, they are being deliberately put into circulation there to distort the truth and thereby try to cover up the obstructionist line of the United States in Geneva as well as the consequences of this line for the destiny of the talks.

Third. The report hints that the readiness displayed by the Soviet Union at the talks to reduce its medium-range missiles in Europe, including SS-20's, supposedly is evidence of its "admission" that it has a superiority in medium-range nuclear weapons in that area.

On Washington's part, this is not just casuistry. This is a manifestation of political unscrupulousness and to a considerable extent of the hypocritical line by the means of which the U.S. leadership tries to confuse the history of the talks, to cover up with invented versions the responsibility of the United States for the new nuclear arms race that is being started in Europe.

From the very outset of the talks and throughout them the Soviet Union's position was constructive, flexible, principled and honest, directed at the search for a mutually acceptable accord. Developing its position on the basis of the principle of equality and equal security, the Soviet side consistently pressed for a lowering of the dangerous level of nuclear confrontation in Europe by coming out with a whole number of initiatives which in their sum ensured an effective and radical solution of the problem of limiting nuclear arms in Europe.

The point was to achieve a comprehensive solution that would encompass not only missiles but also the corresponding nuclear capable aircraft and thereby would not give either side any advantage.

Of course, note was taken of the non-coinciding structure of the nuclear balances of the USSR and NATO when in conditions of a roughly equal alignment of forces in terms of medium-range nuclear weapons the sides possess different numbers of missiles and nuclear-capable planes: In the case of NATO -- 162 missiles and about 700 nuclear-capable aircraft. The USSR has more missiles but at the same time it has much fewer nuclear capable aircraft as compared to NATO. By stating its readiness to equalize the number of its missiles with the number of missiles in the possession of Britain and France, the Soviet side at the same time, naturally, insisted on levelling out the forces of the sides in terms of nuclear-capable aircraft as well. So there is no ground at all for drawing from all this the conclusion about the Soviet Union's superiority in medium-range arms.

The USSR actively sought solutions at the talks in order to make the attainment of accord easier. In 1983 the Soviet Union expressed readiness, in particular, to ensure the maintenance of parity after the reduction both in terms of delivery vehicles (missiles and aircraft) and of warheads carried by them, although as a result of the balancing off of levels in terms of warheads the USSR could have ended up even with noticeably fewer launchers of missiles in Europe than the NATO countries -- Britain and France (incidentally, their number would have been smaller than in 1976, that is long before the adoption of the 1979 NATO decision).

So the Soviet side was ready to try out all the possibilities to reach agreement. And it is not its fault that the talks were eventually torpedoed by the commenced delivery of U.S. missiles right to the borders of the Soviet Union.

Fourth. As is known, the stubborn refusal of the U.S. side to count the nuclear arms of Britain and France in the overall balance of forces in the European region was one of the main obstacles in the road to reaching accord at the Geneva talks. Even now, resorting to all sorts of subterfuges, Washington is trying to prove that the nuclear arms of Britain and France did not have and do not have any relation to the problem of limiting nuclear arms in Europe and that at the final stage of the talks the USSR supposedly had "begun to realize this".

This is sheer invention. Neither at the table of official talks nor during unofficial contacts did the Soviet side recognize nor could it recognize any formula whatsoever of nuclear European balance from which the corresponding forces of the European members of the North Atlantic bloc would be excluded.

The demand to count the British and French nuclear arms when limiting nuclear arms in Europe was not a whim or caprice on the part of the Soviet side. This is an objective demand which the Soviet side has been making from the very beginning of the talks in Geneva in October 1980. This principled position of the USSR did not undergo any changes whatsoever in the course of the subsequent talks.

The British and French nuclear arms are a real component part of the nuclear equation in Europe. Washington admits that it conducted the talks in Geneva on behalf of NATO (the very same Nitze stated on December 12, 1983 that "in real terms he had conducted the talks more on behalf of the European members of NATO than on behalf of the United States"). The question is: How can one speak on behalf of all the NATO countries and at the same time pretend that neither these countries nor their armaments have anything to do with the talks? Ends clearly do not meet here.

The British and French arms comprise a quarter of NATO's overall nuclear potential. According to assessments of Western experts, the number of nuclear warheads in the possession of Britain and France is to increase by 1990 from the present level of more than 400 to 1200 Naturally, one must not ignore such numbers, exclude them from the count when solving problems of limiting nuclear arms in Europe, and turn a blind eye to the danger that they pose to the USSR and its allies. If someone counts on this he is making a big mistake.

In light of the above-stated, contentions by U.S. and some West European officials that the Soviet Union is on the verge of "returning to the talks" under conditions of the deployment of U.S. missiles are nothing but attempts to deceive the peoples and absolve themselves of responsibility for the torpedoing of the talks.

What is needed for their resumption was clearly outlined in the statement made by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Yuriy Andropov, on November 24, 1983: "If the United States and other NATO countries display readiness to return to the situation that existed before the beginning of the deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe, the Soviet Union also will be prepared to do this".

'HONEST' SOVIET POLICY, U.S. 'TRICKERY' CONTRASTED

LD071757 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 7 Jan 84

[From the Vremya newscast; video commentary by NOVOSTI political observer Spartak Beglov: "Two Worlds and Two Policies"]

[Text] Hello, comrades. The development of world events confirms again and again that the truest key to the foreign policy of this or that state is its domestic policy and the nature of its social system. International response to the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee's December Plenum and the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which continues to arrive even since the new year, is indicative in this respect. The foreign public has rightly drawn attention to the inseparable connection between our creative plans and our policy of defending peace throughout the entire world.

Against the background of the honest and consistent policy of the Soviet state, the duplicity and at times hypocrisy and political trickery to which Western ruling circles, especially those of the United States, resort in their striving to confuse people are particularly glaring. This is being done primarily in order to justify the deployment in West Europe of U.S. nuclear missiles in an attempt to upset the existing military balance. The USSR and its allies have stated their determination to give an appropriate response to this dangerous militarist act by the United States and NATO. As the British GUARDIAN rightly noted, the course undertaken by the U.S. President of dealing with the Russians from a position of strength has obviously suffered a shameful fiasco.

After torpedoing the Geneva talks on nuclear weapons in Europe, Washington leaders have now set about intensively sowing illusions that success will allegedly be achieved in getting the USSR back to the negotiating table on NATO terms. There is even an attempt to connect with this the coming opening of the Stockholm conference of the representatives of 35 states, but it is well-known that the agenda for the first stage of this conference concerns only the issue of confidence-building measures. Naturally, the USSR and the other fraternal countries will also defend their peace-loving course at this conference, but they do not intend to play into the hands of those who are attempting with peace-loving phraseology to conceal NATO's rearmament plans.

Our country would not like to consider the situation that has come about as irreversible. On the eve of the New Year it was reaffirmed that, if the United States and other NATO countries show readiness to return to the situation existing prior to the beginning of deployment of the U.S. missiles, the Soviet Union will also be ready to do so.

The international public greeted with great satisfaction the program of action to consolidate peace set forth in the USSR Supreme Soviet resolution. It is indicative that in effect almost all the measures proposed in this important document, from a nuclear armaments freeze to averting an arms race in space, were approved by recent sessions of the UN General Assembly. This is yet another convincing confirmation of the fact that our country's foreign policy course accords with the vital interests of the peoples.

BOGACHEV: REAGAN BANKING ON 'NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL'

LD061907 Moscow TASS in English 1838 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 6 TASS -- TASS military news analyst Vladimir Bogachev writes:

Adviser to President Reagan and "the father of the U.S. hydrogen bomb" Edward Teller asserts that the optimum option for the Americans is a nuclear war in which only 50 million of them will die.

Teller flatly rejects the option of preventing a nuclear war through agreeing on arms limitations as "leading to a Russian superiority", in the confidence that the death of even 150 million Americans is better than an arms control agreement with the Soviet Union.

In his article in THE NEW YORK TIMES Teller asserts that, should a plan for setting in place a civil defence system be implemented, a nuclear war will kill "only" slightly more than a quarter of U.S. population, with the rest of the people being able to get evacuated from big cities 24 hours in advance to shelter areas to survive all the vicissitudes of a nuclear Armageddon.

In his article Teller tries to refute the conclusions of U.S. physicians who said that civil defence in conditions of a nuclear war is as effective as a prayer for cancer treatment. With unexampled levity, this caveman with the rank of a presidential advisor is prepared to throw the lives of dozens of millions of American in the balance, confident that a good nuclear war is better than peace -- a thing bad enough for Teller and his ilk, and so the principal efforts ought to be directed not to maintaining peace, but rather to reducing the number of potential American fatalities from 150 to 50 million.

Indoctrinating the Americans to "take an intellectual approach to the unthinkable", i.e. a nuclear war, Teller and other administration officials hope to facilitate the passage of their plans for an unchecked arm build-up. The same aims are served by the pronouncements of the President himself about setting in place a large-scale ABM system, and by Teller's blood-curdling fantasies about the "acceptability" of nuclear war.

No rat-hole shelters or ABM systems can save the territory of the aggressor from a crushing retaliatory blow. The hopes for a relative invulnerability can only serve to generate in Washington the temptation to start a nuclear war.

Of late, in view of the approaching presidential elections, the head of the ashington administration has ceased, upon advice from aides, telling "funny stories" about a limited nuclear war and the possibility of winning it. The President is now posing as a confirmed advocate of ending the arms race, a champion of peace. But the U.S. Administration's practical actions in the pursuit of the nuclear arms race, and Washington's refusal to conclude mutually acceptable agreements lessening the danger of a nuclear war, indicate that, as before, the President is putting his stakes on nuclear blackmail.

And the article of the presidential adviser in THE NEW YORK TIMES is fresh confirmation that Washington's adventurist militarist course remains unchanged.

'APPROPRIATE FACILITIES' TO BE DEPLOYED AT SEA

PM062038 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Jan 84 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "In the Interests of All Peoples"]

[Text] One of the young Soviet republic's first decrees was the Decree on Peace promulgated immediately after the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

V.I. Lenin, the founder of the Soviet state, emphasized: "We now have power, the power of the Soviets. This power, presented by the people themselves, puts the great cause of peace for all people on fertile ground."

To this day the Soviet state retains its commitment to the Leninist peace-loving policy. New confirmation of this was provided by the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum and the ninth session of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The USSR Supreme Soviet resolution "On the International Situation and the Soviet State's Foreign Policy" totally approves the 28 September and 24 November 1983 statements of Comrade Yu. V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. They provide a profound and comprehensive assessment of the reasons for the present increase in the complexity of the international situation and reaffirm the Soviet Union's invariable line of preserving and strengthening peace, curbing the arms race, and expanding and deepening cooperation among states.

The resolution reflects the Soviet people's love of peace and their determination to deal a fitting rebuff to the militarist aspirations of certain circles in the West. At the same time this important document outlines specific practical steps that could lessen international tension.

This course accords with the interests of ensuring security for all peoples of the planet. We live in a complex world. Through the fault of imperialism, the international situation has been extremely exacerbated in the last few years. A tremendous threat is posed by the militarist, adventurist course of the U.S. Administration, which has developed an arms race of unprecedented dimensions, is interfering unceremoniously in other states' internal affairs, and is committing open aggression against a number of countries. The United States has invaded Grenada, is fanning the flames of conflict in the Near East, and is waging an undeclared war against Nicaragua. The U.S. Administration is continually threatening socialist Cuba. With Washington's open support, the Republic of South Africa is expanding the scale of its aggression against Angola and other African countries.

The situation in Europe, which is a kind of barometer of the world's political weather, has deterioriated sharply. The deterioration in the situation on the continent stems from the fact that the United States, in defiance of the peoples' will and with the complicity of its partners in the aggressive NATO bloc, has embarked on the deployment of its first-strike nuclear missiles there. The threat of a devastating nuclear war hanging over the peoples of Europe has become even more appreciable.

A desire to smash at all costs the prevailing military balance, which constitutes the foundation of international security, can be clearly discerned behind all these actions by the United States and its North Atlantic bloc allies. However, the imperialists' hopes of changing in their favor the military-strategic balance are doomed to inevitable failure. Comrade Yu. V . Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has pointed out that "we will be able under any conditions to ensure the security of our country and the security of our friends and allies."

The measures taken by the Soviet Union in response to the U.S. Administration's reckless actions are aimed at ensuring the security of the USSR and the other socialist countries. These enforced measures include the lifting of the moratorium on the deployment of Soviet medium-range nuclear facilities in the European part of the USSR.

In addition, by agreement with the GDR and CSSR Governments, the preparatory work -- which began some time ago -- for the deployment of enhanced-range operational-tectical missiles on those countries' territory will be speeded up. Appropriate Soviet facilities adequate in terms of their characteristics to meet the threat that the U.S. missiles deployed in Europe create to the socialist community countries will be deployed [budut razvertyvatsya] in ocean regions and seas. Other measures will also be taken, of course.

The resolution of the Soviet Union's supreme organ of state power stresses that the USSR Supreme Soviet wholly supports and approves the practical steps and measures being taken taken by the Communist Party and the Soviet Government to strengthen the Soviet Union's defense capability and ensure the security of the Soviet people and their allies. The Soviet Union, as the USSR Supreme Soviet resolution notes, does not encroach on the security of any country -- in either West or East. It wishes to live in peace with all countries and to implement the principle of peaceful coexistence between states with different sociopolitical systems. The supreme organs of state power of the land of the soviets and the Soviet people call on the parliaments and peoples of all countries of the world to save mankind from nuclear catastrophe the effors of the Soviet people, the peoples of the socialist community countries, and all people of goodwill on earth are directed toward resolving this, the most urgent task of our time.

Unlike the United States and its NATO allies, the Soviet Union does not set the aim of achieving military superiority. It does only what is absolutely necessary to maintain the military balance. The USSR remains faithful to its principled course of ending the arms race, above all the nuclear arms race, and reducing and ultimately totally eliminating the threat of nuclear war. After all, it was the USSR that put forward the proposal to destroy all nuclear facilities in Europe -- both medium-range and tactical. However, the United States did not respond to this proposal.

The Soviet Union is convinced that peace can be strengthened and the peoples' security guaranteed not by buildng up and inventing more and more new types of armaments but, on the contrary, by reducing existing armaments to the lowest possible levels. The USSR Supreme Soviet resolution reafirms the Soviet Union's readiness to return to the situation that existed before the start of the deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe if the United States and the other NATO countries display such a readiness. The Soviet state's supreme organ of pwoer declared the Soviet Union's readiness to examine measures to implement the UN General Assembly's Declaration on the Condemnation of Nuclear War and decisions on freezing nuclear arms and preventing an arms race in outer space if the United States and the other NATO countries are also prepared to do this. The USSR Supreme Soviet believes that it is necessary to urgently seek to implement the proposal for the conclusion of a treaty between the Warsaw Pact states and the members of the North Atlantic alliance on the mutual nonuse of military force and the maintenance of relations of peace; the proposal that all the nuclear powers follow the Soviet Union's example and assume a pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons; and the proposal on preventing an arms race in outer space.

The Soviet Union's peace-loving foreign policy, which is aimed at securing a decisive change for the better in the international situation, is reliably based on the monolithic unity of the Soviet people, who are closely rallied around the CPSU. The present world situation demands of servicemen in the Soviet Armed Forces and of all Soviet people the greatest vigilance, self-possession, organization, and selfless labor in the name of further strengthening the country's economic might and defense capacity.

INTERNATIONAL ROLE OF COMMUNIST MOVEMENT VIEWED

PM061451 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 52, Dec 83 pp 18-19

[Viktor Danilenko article: "The Communists and the Bourgeois Parliament" -- capitalized passages published in boldface]

[Text] Growth of the role of Workers' and Communist Parties in social and political life is a distinctive feature of our times. In recent years the communist movement has continued to expand its ranks and strengthen its influence among the masses of the people. Today Communist Parties are active in 94 countries. In Western Europe alone about 800,000 people have joined them in the past ten years.

The shift in the correlation of forces in the international arena and the changes that have taken place in the political life of the capitalist countries warrant posing in a new way the question of the forms and methods of class struggle, of the ways of transition to radical recasting of the political, social and economic system there. Analysis of the postwar development of many leading bourgeois countries has led the Communists to the conclusion that a socialist revolution can be accomplished in a relatively peaceful way, without an armed uprising and civil war. In this connection, great importance attaches to the question of the participation of Communists in the bourgeois parliament. As is noted in documents of the CPSU and international meetings of Workers' and Communist Paries, the peaceful road of the socialist revolution is the parliamentary way of winning control over key links of the political and legal system of bourgeois society, which is impossible without a mass general democratic movement, without the use of all forms and methods of class struggle.

In Lenin's opinion, under "a firmly established parliamentary system" there is an obvious need for the working class "to take up parliamentarism most seriously." Elections to representative institutions further the political enlightenment of the masses, inducing them to take an active part in social life.

At the same time Lenin resolutely opposed "parliamentary cretinism," that is, the belief that the parliamentary struggle is the "SOLE or UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES THE MAIN form of the political struggle." A genuinely working-class Marxist party must subordinate all its parliamentary activity to the common interests of the working-class movement, to the tasks of the proletariat in the revolutionary struggle.

Lenin's ideas help in elaborating the strategy and tactics of present-day Communist Parties of bourgeois countries. The qualitatively new historical situation -- the emergence and strengthening of the world socialist system and the overall change in the correlation of forces in the international arena and within many bourgeois countries -- extends the possibilities of a peaceful road of the revolution. It goes without saying that the peculiarities of the modern forms and methods of the rule of the bourgeoisie and national specifics demand a creative approach to Lenin's heritage.

The search for new ways of revolutionary struggle is undoubtedly a complicated matter, all the more so if it has to be conducted in the present, far from simple political situation. Bourgeois propaganda never tires of repeating that once they come to power the Communists would never relinquish it voluntarily, that this inevitably involves the establishment of dictatorial forms of government and the abolition of political and economic freedoms.

In other words, the bourgeoisie seeks to prove that the Communists have only to acquire the possibility of activity at government level for the social system to change and socio-economic relations and the freedom of the small proprietor to dispose of his capital to be affected.

On the one hand, this sophistry is designed to frighten the man in the street, to condition him against the Communists, thus rendering difficult the ideological-propaganda and political work of the Communist parties and the already extremely complicated task of winning the possibility to use parliament in the interests of the class struggle of the proletariat and its allies.

On the other hand, concealed behind it is a more subtle long-term design: gradually to influence the tactical orientation of Communists, to draw them into a discussion on democracy within the framework of institutions of bourgeois democracy. The idea is to place the Communists in a position when they will be preoccupied with these problems. to compel them -- for the sake of retaining their influence among the electorate and especially its vacillating part -- to make statements of loyalty to the institutions of bourgeois democracy, and in particular to its representative establishments with their traditional periodic change of ruling parties. In other words, the ruling class is striving in a roundabout way to neutralize Communist Parties, to integrate them, like social democracy, into the existing political system. In these circumstances, inability to take a firm stand on questions of principle, to adhere consistently to the class line of the revolutionary struggle, which combines consideration of the specifics of modern conditions with fidelity to the fundamental propositions of the Marxist-Leninist theory of the socialist revolution, inevitably leads to loss of the possibility of making full use of the revolutionary potential of the masses, the sharpening social and political contradications and the discontent with the existing system. And this, in the final analysis, negatively affects the authority of Communist parties in the eyes of the working people.

For all their heightened importance in the new historical conditions, parliamentary forms of class struggle have definite limits. Participation in parliament is not an end in itself. The firmness of the Communists' position in parliament is important only as a means of making a qualitatively new advance in their work among the masses, in drawing into the struggle all who are discontented with the dominance of monopoly, the chronic economic crises and the corruption of the state apparatus. In other words, participation in parliament is one way to build up the army of the revolution, of democratizing the political process.

It should not be forgotten that parliamentarism does not exhaust the concept of democracy, even bourgeois democracy. It is merely one of its forms deliberately absolutized by bourgeois propaganda. The struggle to preserve and deveop democracy leads society to the boundary line at which, as Lenin noted, "consistent democracy, on the one hand, is TRANSFORMED into socialism and, on the other, DEMANDS socialism." And this objectively presupposes active participation of the masses of the people in the political process through all the existing forms -- mass public and political organizations and institutions of direct democracy, using the proclaimed political rights and freedoms along with genuine democratization of the constitutional mechanism of power itself.

There can be no question, of course, of imposing any models. New ways and forms of the revolutionary restructuring of society, tested by experience, only enrich the theory of socialist revolution.

Divergence of views and assessments among the Communist Parties of some countries is natural and permissible. Nevertheless, it would be strange, to say the least, to begin the search for new ways by completely negating the experience of those who opened up the road to socialism for mankind.

In elaborating the strategy and tactics of revolutionary struggle the communists are well aware that, besides parliament, monopoly capital has quite a few other, extra-parliamentary spheres of power of a closed character which are often more influential than representative institutions. Among these are the army, the police, the judiciary, the all-pervading influence of banks and corporations, the powerful mass information media that manipulates the minds of the masses. Attempts to bring about any more or less important changes without affecting these links of the mechanism of monopoly dictatorship are doomed to failure. Incidentally, this question was posed in precisely these terms at the 24th Congress of the French Communist Party.

Communists in the developed cpaitalist countries regard the might of world socialism, the socialist countries' foreign policy of peace as one of the essential prerequisites of effecting socialist transformations by peaceful means.

"One of the foundations of our strategy," it was stressed at the French Communist Party Congress, "consists precisely in international reality, in the change in the correlation of forces in favour of socialism, independence, and peace. It would be suicidal to forget this, to try to isolate our struggle from the struggle of the other forces fighting all over the world against capitalism and for socialism."

The use of the parliamentary rostrum for defence of the interests of the working class is far from easy for the communists. For they are opposed by the entire apparatus of the bourgeois state using a wide array of means, including direct legal restrictions, a prohibitive system of distributing parliamentary mandates, a high electoral deposit, complex conditions for the registration of communist candidates, in short, an unjust, anti-democratic electoral system.

Nevertheless, with the support of the masses, communists do win seats in parliament. In some countries they form blocs other democratic forces and organizations, as in France, Finland and Mexico. Communists are invariably the most resolute champions of working-class unity, of the establishment of broad democratic alliances on an anti-monopoly basis. For all that, in most cases -- owing to the inconsistency of the positions of Social Democrats -- they are obliged to act on their own, as in Japan, Sweden, Italy, Belgium and other countries. The percentage of votes polled by the Communists of different countries ranges from 5 percent (Sweden) to more than 30 percent (Italy, Cyprus). Accordingly, the number of parliamentary mandates they receive also varies. At present in many instances Communist parties succeed in strengthening their parliamentary positions, as is evidenced by the results of parliamentary elections of recent years, in particular in Japan, Italy, Portugal and some other countries. Comparatively improtant victories were scored in parliamentary elections in 1981 by the communists of Greece and Cyprus. In the same year there was a certain decrease in the parliamentary representation of the communists of France, but it was thanks in large measure to the support of the FCP [French Communist Party] that the left bloc won in France, which made it possible, for the first time in the history of the Fifth Republic, to form a left government. On the whole today Communist Parties are represented and work actively in the parliaments of some score of bourgeois countries.

Communists use the parliamentary rostrum, firstly, to defend the interests of the working people, and to press for curbs on the arbitrary rule of monopoly. Secondly, by their very presence in parliaments they help to broaden the influence of working people on state and legislative bodies. Thirdly, Communist Parties actively contribute to the formation of new norms of socio-political relations.

Thanks to the activity of Communist Parties, more intensive use is made of the democratic rules of parliamentary procedure. A bigger role is played by parliamentary debate, especially on the programme statements of governments and budgetary questions, the prerequisites are created for increased control of government activity, and the proceedings of the parliaments receive greater publicity.

Moreover, the work of Communists in bourgeois parliaments makes it more difficult forthe ruling classes to defend the interests of monopoly capital by "nationwide" laws of various kinds. Finally, in parliaments where Communists have sufficiently large groups they advance legislative initiatives according with the interests of the working people. To be sure, it is exceedingly difficult to get their bills passed, but co-operation with other democratic forces and reliance on the working people make it possible to succeed in some cases. Suffice it to recall the lowering of the voting age to 18 years in a number of bourgeois countris in recent years, the law adopted in Portugal in 1978 prohibiting fascist parties and organizations, the series of social reforms carried out in France in 1981-83 (the lowering of the retirement age, the raising of allowances for the needy, measures to combat unemployment, etc.), and the reorganization of the system of local self-government in Italy.

Even in those countries where communist parties are not yet represented in parliament they do not neglect parliamentary activity. As was stressed at one of the recent congresses of the German Communist Partv. "bv its argumentation. initiatives and undertakings, our party... helped to bring aobut a situation in which the parties represented inthe Bundestag were compelled to consider the demands of the working people and to take them into account to some extent."

In our time the necessity of communist participation in the governments of a number of bourgeois countries is dictated not only by the logic of the calss struggle, but also by the requirements of social and economic development. Alvaro Cunhal, for instance, stresses: "The participation of communists in government is not only possible and desirable, but also necessary for strengthening the democratic regime, for overcoming the difficulties facing the coutnry." History confirms that Communists are the most consistent defenders of genuine national and state interests. However, for communists ministerial portfolios are not an end in itself, but a means of extending the front of the struggle for social change. The international working-class movement knows such examples: The Popular Front period in France, the first postwar years in a number of West European countries, the political experience of Finland and Portugal (in the latter, after the April revolution of 1974), and others. On the whole, the Communist Parties of a good many bourgeois countries have, to one or another extent, experience of governmental activity. And this experience is being augmented.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

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["International Observers Roundtable" program with Gennadiy Ivanovich Gerasimov, chief editor of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI; Nikolay Ivanovich Yefimov, first deputy chief editor of IZVESTIYA; and Vitaliy Sergeyevich Sobolev, All-Union Radio commentator]

Threats to Peace, Security

[Text] [Sobolev] Hello, comrades. Today we have our first program of the new year, and I think it is worth our while not only to analyze how the year has started but also to look to future prospects. The foreign policy heritage from the previous year on the one hand causes concern, and on the other I would like to draw attention to the fact that actions of militarist forces are encountering strong and growing counteraction. This is not a law of physics, it is a social law. The new year inherited not only the first U.S. Pershing and cruise missiles in West Europe in a state of war readiness, but the antiwar movement grown to hitherto unseen proportions and resolute support by the international community of the Soviet peace initiatives which is reflected in the resolutions of the UN General Assembly as well as in the coordinated countermeasures on the part of the socialist countries and the active peace policy conducted by our country. I am referring, in particular, to the statements by Comrade Andropov and the documents of the CPSU Central Committee plenum and the USSR Supreme Soviet session.

[Gerasimov] The boundaries between one year and another are a convention: In some countries the new year begins on a date which is not 1 January; but such is the magic of numbers that it seems to everyone as if we are crossing not just some temporal borderline but a qualitative one, one of essence. Therefore results are in any case summed up, and it is our duty, almost a requirement of our job, so to speak, to look to the future as well. As you have said, in international life the beginning of the new year has become the continuation of the end of the previous one. U.S. missiles are stationed in Western Europe; in Lebanon guns of the main caliber are firing from an American battleship, and Israeli planes drop bombs; in southern Angola a war is going on -- the country has been invaded by the Armed Forces of the Republic of South Africa; and although it is quiet in Grenada, this is the quiet of the battlefield after a battle. The new year has inherited the old one's problems, the chief among which is that of removing the threat of a nuclear war.

[Yefimov] On the very eve of the new year the USSR Supreme Soviet addressed to parliaments of other countries and, first of all, to the U.S. Congress, a proposal that they should do all that is possible to make their governments renounce conducting policy from a position of strength and from attempts to achieve military superiority. The Supreme Soviet urged this because this policy presents today a particular threat to the cause of peace. The USSR Supreme Soviet decision stresses that the only path to consolidating the peace and security of the peoples possible in current conditions it to recognize the principle of equality and equal security and to strive toward the attainment on its basis of mutually acceptable accords. There can be no other basis, as very important Soviet decuments -- be it either at the Geneva talks, at the Vienna talks, or anywhere else -- have often stressed. Is Washington prepared to accept this principle? In the past 2 months we have been hearing all the time, first from one, then from another high-ranking figure in the United States, that they are all for conducting negotiations on arms control with the USSR at any table in any part of the world.

Where does such a desire suddenly spring from? For 1 and 1/2 years the world had been persuading the Reagan administration to start negotiating with the USSR, and for 1 and 1/2 years they had been avoiding them like the plague, until at last they felt that the deployment of Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe might not take place if the United States did not sit down at the negotiations table. So they sat down because, in the words of the newspaper TRIBUNE in San Francisco, negotiations for the Reagan administration were only a smokescreen, a cheap way to attain nuclear superiority. Now, Washington official representatives go out of their way to calm their NATO allies. Indeed, the White House has been saying repeatedly, year in, year out, that the moment the first-strike weapons are brought near the borders of the USSR, then the Russians will almost raise their arms in surrender at the talks on medium-range nuclear arms in Europe.

What else could the Russians do? -- Washington gratified itself and persuaded its allies. Americans have a habit of putting their feet on the table. Perhaps they really feel more comfortable to sit like this in their own home. Whether one likes it or not, it is their own business if, I stress, they sit like this in their own home. But they intend to put their feet on the table at the Geneva talks. Now, I repeat, Washington is trying to calm everyone down: nothing terrible or dramatic has happened, contacts between the United States and the USSR are continuing, neither country's diplomats have become jobless, while there seems to be no tension in the world and everything is quiet. But all these calming arguments have one aim: to mislead public opinion both at home and in Europe and to camouflage the source of the real threat to peace and who is making the situation deteriorate sharply. U.S. President Reagan even called deployment in Europe of Pershing and cruise missiles another element in the talks. In such a way one could probably talk ad infinitum, but there are no talks -- in other words, the most important things are not there. As Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, our foreign minister, stressed at a meeting with GDR Foreign Minister Fischer, these talks cannot be replaced by anything else, let alone by soothing rhetoric.

[Gerasimov] In light of this appraisal, I would like to return again to the forecasts which people make at the beginning of the new year. Such forecasts have been given in many countries of course, but one's attention has been drawn to a new year message by Pertini, the President of Italy. He said that the internal situation caused concern and added the following: I am making a statement which may appear absurd to some political figures. I think it is necessary to move on to a universal and controlled disarmament.

Just think in what a strange world we live if a political figure who has mustered enough courage to call disarmament an aim makes excuses about the fact that his words may look absurd to somebody. Just think what a strange world we live in if, indeed, these words of the Italian president about disarmament were seen as absurd by many of his compatriots and, of course, across the ocean. Well, usually a new year message is listened to and then immediately forgotten. But in Italy, the message by President Pertini caused, as newspapers wrote, a political earthquake. The newspapers, by the way, also wrote that the Italian president's statement and his government's policy were diametrically opposed.

[Sobolev] But Pertini's words were aimed at eliciting the widest response both in his country and other European states. Most Italians are against the new U.S. missiles -- just as most British, Netherlands, Belgians, and West Germans. In the FRG, the seventh congress of the German Communist Party has taken place. Comrade Romanov, the head of the CPSU delegation, said the congress proceeded under the motto of mobilizing the country's forces against the increased danger of war. Today, he stressed, the question of whether it will be possible to turn the development of events onto the track of detente and escape military confrontation concerns millions of people in all the world's countries.

[Gerasimov] There is also the worthy example of Averell Harriman. He is a well-known U.S. political figure, served as U.S. ambassador in Moscow during the war years, and has been adviser to five U.S. Presidents. He has immense experience of life, and this lends particular weight to his judgements and appraisals. Harriman recently published an article stating that he had kept silent for three years, observing the policies of President Reagan, giving Reagan the chance to make something out of his foreign policy, hoping that common sense would ultimately prevail.

Now, Harriman said that to continue his silence is no sign of patriotism at all. To continue the silence is a sign of irresponsibility. So what does he say now? He notes the absence of professionalism in the White House. He reminds one, as you said Nikolay Ivanovich, that for 15 months Reagan was unable to determine his own initial position at the talks on the problem of arms reduction, and then at these talks he behaved in such a way and put forward such proposals that all this, in Harrisman's opinion -- and Harriman is absolutely right here -- aroused serious doubts about whether the U.S. Government intended at all to seek a rational agreement of any description. Harriman is a particularly rational man, and this is evident both from his memoirs and his speeches. I also got this impression from personal meetings with him. But times are so troubled that he is displaying his emotions. Harriman writes that as the new year approached, he decided to write the article because the future is in question. He writes that our human nature itself should stir us to pass on to our children and grandchildren not fear but hope, not the arms race but arms control, not the destruction of our planet but a better and safer world.

Harriman's words reflect a very widespread feeling. It is possible that the White House too is beginning to understand this. Hence the stance at the new year by Reagan that all is very well. He even says that the international situation is better now than it was when we got here -- here being the White House. However, it is not merely Italian President Pertini who disagrees with him on this point. Many disagree with him, even the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has published its own appraisal of the prospects of development of the international situation and in it forecasts the increase of tension between East and West.

[Yefimov] Even Great Britain, the United States' closest ally, is beginning to get seriously worried about the prospects of White House policy. The paper FINANCIAL TIMES -- the paper of British business circles -- published an article at the beginning of this year which analyzes Reagan's course. The paper poses two questions: First being whether it is possible to trust the unilateral actions of Washington on a global scale -- and gives the answer no, it is impossible; the second is that the paper reaches the conclusion that at the moment deliberate efforts are necessary in order to initiate talks on questions which ought to be discussed, also not to conduct talks from a position of strength, since world dialogue cannot be conducted indefinitely with the aid of threats. What is said here by this serious British paper is again very symptomatic.

[Gerasimov] At the moment, quite a pressing situation has developed, in the sense that it is necessary to undertake some sort of specific measures to rectify the situation. Of course, the situation can and must be improved, but the question is how. In the West at the moment, there is talk that in a week, a conference is to begin in Stockholm on measures to strengthen confidence, security, and disarmament in Europe, and that this will provide the opportunity to conduct business as usual, as U.S. business people say.

The Stockholm conference is in itself important and necessary. It is a continuation of the Helsinki process. However, it is not in a position to replace the Geneva talks. A miracle cannot take place just like that. Of course, Stockholm is viewed as a place where high-ranking representatives from the Soviet Union and from the United States can meet again -- and hopes are linked to this. However, it must be said that all the same it is not in Stockholm that a solution to the impasse must be sought. The solution to the impasse, and this is stressed in our statements and documents, is in the return of the United States and NATO allies to the situation which existed before the beginning of deployment of missiles in Europe. The Soviet Union likewise will be ready to do this. This is where the solution to the impasse lies.

I don't know, however, whether this is taken into account by Mr Reagan. There is this latest episode -- the withdrawal in a year's time by 31 December this year, of the United States from UNESCO, the UN organization dealing with culture, education, and science.

[Yefimov] This is no way out at all. It is a form of blackmail, an attempt to influence UNESCO, to force UNESCO to change its policy, its approach to the resolution of a great many very serious international problems.

[Sobolev] The United States has somehow been offended by the fact that the majority of members of this organization, made up of 161 countries, are against imperialism, Zionism and racism. This is yet another example of clumsy, crude U.S. diplomacy. It can't even really be called diplomacy. At the same time, it is significant that the United States made the decision to leave UNESCO because life was not going smoothly for it there. For example, the ASSOCIATED PRESS put it this way, that the United States does not want to sit in the dock any longer at UNESCO. In general, Washington does bear a grudge against the international organization. At one time, the United States had an automatic majority at the United Nations, and was even able to take advantage of the UN flag as a cover for the war in Korea. At that time, the organization completely suited the United States.

Now that the developing countries have come into the political arena, the picture has changed. Now, the U.S. analysts are looking for the reason for the isolation of the United States in the race of the whole world. They have calculated that, for example, in 1982 the nonaligned countries voted together with the Soviet Union in 80 cases out of 100, and with the United States in only 20 cases out of 100. Among the reasons for this situation, specialists are even pointing to Soviet diplomats' excellent knowledge of foreign languages, and their friendliness, so that it is pleasant to do business with them. However, they cannot bring themselves to look at the essence of their own foreign policy and compare it with the Soviet Union's foreign policy. The whole answer lies there, of course.

[Gerasimov] Even now, very many of Reagan's actions are considered from the perspective of the points he receives in the election battle which is beginning. Take his Grenada incursion: However strangely, this brought points for Reagan through the hurrahs of U.S. patriots.

Middle East Review

As for the Middle East and the U.S. Marines in Lebanon and the coffins going back to the United States from Lebanon, here it is considered that Reagan has a really weak position in terms of his chances in the election battle. He is totally unable to clearly explain to the population why U.S. Marines should die in Lebanon.

[Yefimov] Former Lebanese Prime Minister Karami gave a brief and fairly precise reply to that question. The United States and Israel are striving not to allow national reconciliation between the opposing political groups in Lebanon, and to wreak the process of a peaceful settlement of the Lebanese problem. As is known, at the end of last year a conference was held in Geneva of these various opposing groups, and they arrived at the conclusion, the unanimous conclusion, that it was essential to change the Lebanese-Israeli agreement which tramples on the sovereignty of Lebanon, and secondly to create a government of national unity in Lebanon. It is precisely this that the United States is now opposing. When he was in Washington, Al-Jumayyil met with the U.S. leadership, and received a fairly firm response: not one letter of the agreement is open to change.

[Gerasimov] I think that this policy is also an old one, perhaps even older than the Near East where, as is known, there have been conflicts from time immemorial: to wit, the policy of divide and rule.

[Sobolev] I should like to note once again that the foreign policy legacy of last year is not cut and dried. Washington more or less succeeded, although at great cost, in achieving something in the Near East. U.S. soldiers are not to be found in yet another part of that region. They are in Beirut, and the White House appears to be ready to do anything to keep them there. But the White House's wish is not everything. Just look. I am not talking about the patriotic forces of Lebanon, which are expressing their attitude to the U.S. occupation with action; I am not talking about the progressive forces of the Arab world, but about the present Government of Lebanon. As the ambassador of that country to the United States stated, I quote, he said that the government regrets that the U.S. Marines had been sent to Beirut. U.S. allies Italy and France have announced that they intend to reduce the contingents they sent to Lebanon, while in Britain there are influential forces in favor of withdrawing the British contingent. In the United States itself -- we have already spoken of this -- there are more and more proponents of withdrawing the U.S. troops from Beirut, and Reagan cannot ignore these feelings forever.

[Gerasimov] In general there is a latent growth in the trends toward getting the Near East problem genuinely solved. An interesting analysis of these trends was carried out by the Soviet publicist, Anatoliy Ogaryshev, in his book "From Camp David to the Tragedy of Lebanon" [Ot Kemp Devida k Tragedii Livana].

It was published by Molodaya Gvardiya. The author proceeds from the fact that there are realistic ways of emerging from such a long crisis in this area. The way was clearly expressed in the Soviet proposals, which are consonant with the position of the overwhelming majority of Arab states. This is the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied territories, the implementation of the just rights of the Arab people of Palestine and ensuring the security and independent existence of all states and peoples of the Near East. The way is clear, but it goes against the schemes of the United States and Israel. It is only the defeat of the aggressive policy of Zionism and imperialism that can lead to this end. The author of the above-mentioned book shows how illusory and transitory the successes of those forces are.

U.S. In Grenada, C. America

[Yefimov] Gennadiy Ivanovich cited, and rightly, that the greater part of the U.S. population supports the violence committed against Grenada. Indeed, according to data from sociological polls, something of the order of 70 percent of the population supports Reagan's action in Grenada.

[Gerasimov] It is interesting to sort out how this came to be.

[Yefimov] In preparing the violence against Grenada, the White House ensured in advance that not just foreign but also its own correspondents would not be admitted to the island. For 5 days they did not admit a single journalist of Grenada. Only information in strictly controlled doses was released by the Pentagon. Correspondents were only admitted on the sixth day, and only an extremely limited number, to extremely limited parts of the island. As a result Americans did not know and still do not know what was going on there, what happened there. The present administration needed just that. However, despite all the prohibition the truth is gradually seeping through, even to the United States.

[Gerasimov] There are, on the other hand, Americans who were not gripped by chauvinist fever. One of the members of the House of Representatives brought a resolution in Congress on removing Reagan from the Presidency for most flagrant violations of the Constitution during the invasion of Grenada by American troops. It was supported by some other congressmen. This congressman, Weiss by name, accuses Reagan of giving the order for aggression against Grenada without congressional consent, and of carrying out the invasion in violation of U.S. international treaty obligations, and also of consciously hiding the progress of the military operation from the mass media and the American people.

[Sobolev] Yes, Washington counts the taking of Grenada on the credit side. But if we take the situation in Latin America as a whole, throughout the past year it has changed in favor of the liberation movement. The process of democratization continued in Br-zil; elections were held in Argentina, and a civilian government replaced a military one; in Chile there has been a whole series -- the first time in 10 years -- of big antidictatorship demonstrations by democratic forces; antidictatorship demonstrations have started in Uruguay. If we turn to events in Central America, although the United States has started using its Armed Forces there (last year it landed its soldiers in Honduras) nevertheless even there the situation is changing not in favor of imperialism and its henchmen-dictators. A meeting is being held at the moment in Panama between foreign ministers of the countries of Central America from the Contadora Group. They are discussing a document on the basis of which the Central American conflict can be settled by peaceful means.

Since it is precisely U.S. policy that has caused the armed conflicts in this area, there can be no peaceful settlement without the United States. It is not only the Latin American neighbors of the United States that are in favor of a peaceful settlement but also their European allies and international public opinion. Therefore Washington has been forced to support this idea in words. In action however it is still undermining the efforts of the Contadora Group and is continuing to increase aid both to the Salvadorean dictatorship and to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, both of which are being defeated. For example, according to information from the Farabundo Marti Front in El Salvador, it has put out of action over 7,000 soldiers of the government roops and captured almost 2,000. Aside from this, over 4,000 weapons of various kinds, including cannons and mortars, have been seized. Wide areas covering over 60 municipalities have been liberated. These latest battle successes of the rebels have already been mentioned -- such big successes as have not previously occurred. For example, during the capture of the military base of El Paraiso alone, 300 punitive expedition members were killed and wounded, including 20 officers and 40 sergeants. In general military observers consider that the rebels have the strategic initiative.

But Washington is not drawing the conclusion from these events that gambling on the dictatorship is finished, and that a peaceful way out must be found; on the contrary, the United States intends to increase the numbers of the Salvadorean Army by one fifth, to send it another 24 combat helicopters, and will give the Salvadorean dictatorship another $160-180 million in addition to the hundreds of millions that have already perished in the bottomless Salvadorean barrel.

[Vyfimov] There is fairly uneasy, complex situation around Nicaragua. About 1 and 1/2 to 2 months ago, at a meeting with journalists at the roundtable, we were saying that Washington, acting through representatives had started resorting to a new form of struggle against the Nicaraguan revolution. The CIA is now organizing raids on civilian targets, ports, power stations, airports, oil depots. The aim is the same: to create difficulties in the country, to cause dissatisfaction among the population, to make the country topple from within. The essence is the same as that of the CIA in its time in Chile. There, as you remeber, the Americans organized a strike of freight transport and created grave economic difficulties in the country. In Nicaragua they are operating with military methods, but the aim is the same.

Events in Southern Africa

[Sobolev] Now let's turn to events in southern Africa. The situation surrounding these events has once again shown us on the one hand that the United States and its allies are placing their stake on force, and on the other that this force is limited and that the United States is becoming increasingly isolated as a result of such a policy. The Security Council has just resolutely condemned the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa for the new bombings and occupation of certain parts of Angola. Threatening to veto the resolution, the United States came out against calling the South America African actions aggression and against the use of sanctions. But in the events, together with Britain, it still abstained during the voting, although during the discussion the delegates dotted all the i's, having given the appropriate description to the aggressor and those behind him. No doubt Washington once again went through a nerve crisis on account of the fact that once again it was on its own against the entire world.

[Gerasimov] The situation has been sharply aggravated in connection with the war that the Republic of South Africa has started against Angola, and indeed, moreoever, there is not even a common border; the troops from the Republic of South Africa enter southern Angola from Namibia.

[Yefimov] The troops of the Republic of South Africa have invaded the southern provinces of Angola quite deeply -- up to 280 km. Tanks, artillery units and aircraft have been firing on Angolan population centers and there have been many casualties and much damage. The purpose has been to destabilize the situation in that country and in a number of other neighboring states at the same time.

[Gerasimov] The TASS statement published on Friday notes the direct link between the impudent actions of the Republic of South Africa and the increased impudence on the part of the United States itself. In this sense the United States is setting the example, and the Republic of South Africa feels encouragement and support from the United States, including support in the form of military equipment. So this bad U.S. example is of course to a considerable extent stepping up the activity both of the racists in the southern part of Africa and it is also encouraging to a considerable extent the growth in Israel's feeling that it can go unpunished. It seems to me that if one thinks of the reason why the Republic of South Africa is invading the southern part of Angola, I think that there is a twofold aim here: On the one hand the republic of South Africa does not want to part with Namibia, which it is occupying. Namibia is rich in natural minerals, and this is a tasty morsel, and U.S. monopolies are also looking at it in expectation; but of course the Republic of South Africa does not like the Angolan regime itself, a progressive regime. They would like to encourage its replacement by a pro-Western, pro-U.S., pro-South African regime, and for this reason they are supporting the rebels who are operating in the southern part of Angola.

[Sobolev] That is to say the UNITA separatist movement, with Jonas Savimbi at its head, who as has been proved, is a paid agent of the CIA and a placeman of the Republic of South Africa. Today it is worth remembering, I think, another troubled area of the globe -- Southeast Asia. It is worth doing so because Kampuchea has just marked the fifth anniversary of the people's revolution. At one time the United States also included that country in a plan under which they wanted to bomb the communists into the Stone Age, as they expressed it in Washington. Subsequently the Pol Pot people took upon themselves approximately the same task. It cannot be said that they have no success. The tragedy of Kampuchea is without parallel and the restoration has cost and is costing heroic efforts. But over the course of 5 years these efforts have borne comforting fruit. Out of 2.5 million hectares of worked land, 1.7 million is already being cultivated. Industry, the educational system, and public health are being reborn. The external enemy, despite all his cunning, is incapable of stopping the Kampucheans. In 1984 they have great plans for peaceful construction, and it seems to me that this is a very expressive example of the might of the creative forces of mankind.

A little earlier Cuba marked the 25th anniversary of its revolution. Its people too have to live and work under difficult conditions as a result of the intrigues of the United States. This date has provided an opportunity for adding up the impressive results of socialist construction in Cuba.

It is appropriate to recall now that the rate of economic growth in the countries of the socialist community increased last year and that it will be raised this year, too, while the labor successes of our community are acquiring a particular foreign policy significance. Comrade Andropov's speech at the CPSU Central Committee plenum stresses that under conditions in which the international situation has been sharply aggravated through the fault of the aggressive imperialist circles, the punctilious fulfillment of the state plan becomes not merely an obligation but the patriotic duty of every Soviet person. The USSR's peace-loving foreign policy will continue to rest reliably upon the selfless labor of the whole people, rallied closely around the Communist Party. With these words from the decision of the USSR Supreme Soviet, I bring this broadcast to a close. Thank you for your attention, comrades. All the very best to you.

'INTERNATIONAL SITUATION: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS'

LD062023 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1315 GMT 6 Jan 84

["International Situation -- Questions and Answers" program, presented by Sergey Pravdin, All-Union Radio foreign political commentator, with Bronislav Myakota, Central Television and All-Union Radio political observer: Igor Belyayev, international affairs journalist; and Nikolay Agayants, All-Union Radio foreign political commentator]

Middle East Situation

[Excerpts] [Pravdin] Lebanon and the Near East as a whole continues to remain one of the most acute danger points of our planet. Comrades (Shchetov) and (Zorin) from Moscow, (Olekhanov) from Arkhangelsk, (Kelnichenko) from Donestsk, (Mishin) from the town of Venev in Tula Oblast ask us to talk about the situation in that region and about who is obstructing a peaceful settlement. Responding to your questions, esteemed comrades, is Igor Belyayev.

[Belyayev] A total of three wars have been taking place and are continuing to this day in the region simultaneously. The first and the longest war in Lebanon, of more than 1 and 1/2 years, is being waged by Israel. As is known, it began in June 1982, breaking all records. Despite the draconian efforts of the occupying corps of Israelis in Lebanon, an end to the war is so far not in sight.

I am convinced that the occupiers do not intend to leave southern Lebanon, where they have dug in very very soundly. Another war in the Near East is President Reagan's war against Lebanon and the Syrians who are on territory of that country on the mandate of the Arab League states. It began openly on 4 December last year, when the U.S. Air Force, based on aircraft carriers off the shores of Lebanon, bombed Lebanese towns and villages and the positions of the Syrian military contingent on Lebanese territory.

But if we speak on a wider-ranging level of the U.S. role in the Near East, then we can stress that the U.S. is attempting today, by means of bombing Syrians and by means of open participation in military operations in the Near East, to demonstrate, essentially, their desire to resolve very complex and acute problems in that country by force. We can say today that Syria is not Grenada, and that Syria is fully resolved to resist the imperialist policy of the United States in the Near East.

Just a few days ago, Israel demonstrated that it also is joining the war against the Syrians in Lebanon, by bombing the small resort town of Bhamdun in the Lebanese mountains. The Israelis have, so to speak, demonstrated that the cooperation of Israel and the United States in the war in the Near East is becoming more active on the basis of the notorious strategic cooperation agreement reached in November 1983.

[Pravdin] The Arab press is now writing much about the fact that the United States and the NATO countries have strengthened their positions in the Near East. Is this so?

[Belyayev] I don't think that this is so. On the contrary, the impudent violation of the independence of a sovereign Arab country -- I mean Lebanon -- is, in the eyes of the Arab world, a signal that the United States and the NATO countries would act in precisely the same fashion with the other Arab states in defending their so-called vitally important interests. I think that the West will sustain very great losses in the very near future in the Near East, for the United States, like some of the other NATO countries, stubbornly wishes to draw the region into its far-ranging anti-Soviet military plans, although the Soviet Union has never been at war with the Arabs, and has not occupied and is not occupying an inch of Arab territory.

The consistent position of the USSR on the problems of a Near East settlement, the essence of which lies in support for the Arabs in their struggle against the aggression of Israel and the United States; this is the basis on which the steadfast strengthening of our country's position in that important region is taking place today. Our position precisely guarantees for the Arab countries realistic means for resistance against aggression and occupation, resistance against attempts to force them into a shameful capitulation. Bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and the Arab states in 1983 took shape in various ways. However, it is obvious that the Arabs, with regard to the military-political situation prevailing in the region, have, as before, a realistic possibility of cooperating with the Soviet Union. To take advantage of an objectively existing possibility is the affair of each Arab country.

[Pravdin] And how do things stand with the notorious Near East peace initiative of President Reagan?

[Belyayev] It was put forward on 1 September 1982, at the very height of the Israeli war in Lebanon. At that time we regarded that initiatives as an attempt to distract the attention of the world public from the Israeli crimes on the territory of Lebanon, terrible crimes, crimes which made the whole world shudder. And since then, not one Arab country has approved the Reagan initiative. And, following the salvoes of the battleship "New Jersey" against Lebanon, I do not think that the Arabs have formed the impression that the United States wishes to offer them something like peace.

After the advancement of the Reagan plan, just as after Camp David, the overwhelming majority of Arab countries reject the Americans' plans in the region, first and foremost because they are anti-Arab, they envisage separate deals with individual Arab states to the detriment of pan-Arab interests instead of collective efforts to seek a Near East settlement.

The Fes plan for peace in the Near East, which was advanced by the Arabs themselves, also in 1982, is an effective alternative to the Reagan plan. I should like to draw attention to the fact that an increasing number of Arab politicians are inclined toward a serious discussion of the proposals by the Soviet Union on the convocation of an international conference on the Near East, in which all interested parties, including the PLO should participate.

[Pravdin] Many of our radio listeners are interested in the question of what the fate of southern Lebanon and Lebanon as a whole can be.

[Belyayev] Lebanon has a sad fate. The United States, NATO and Israel are continuing to kill and to torment this unhappy Arab country. I lived for many years in Lebanon, and I will tell you frankly that it is very difficult even to imagine what it has been transformed into today by the Israeli occupiers, the U.S. interventionists and the several wars which have taken place on Lebanese territory.

[Pravdin] The Americans themselves have crept into the war against Lebanon, whereas previously they relied upon Israel as the main executor of their schemes in the region.

[Belyayev] In the conditions which have come about, the United States is insisting that, by formally supporting the Lebanese Republic in the form of helping President Al-Jumayyil to rehabilitate the Lebanese Army, it wants to strengthen its military presence in this Arab country. This is essential in order to ensure the use of the Rapid Deployment Force in the event, for example that the politican situation in the Gulf should change for the worse for the United States, and for the creation of a precedent which might apply to a possible U.S. military presence in other Arab countries. By means of the war in Lebanon the United States wishes to break these countries' resistance and, thereby, to consolidate its own military presence throughout the Near East without paying heed to Arab governments. Israel has been and remains the main executor of U.S. schemes in the region, and no changes have taken place on that score.

[Pravdin] But can it be expected that the Arab-Israeli confrontation will cease in the near future?

[Belyayev] I don't think so. As a matter of fact, everything that is taking place in Lebanon -- whether it is the U.S. and Israeli war against the Syrian troops on Lebanese territory, or the clouds, the storm clouds over Syria, or, let us say, the potential threat which hangs over Jordan and certain other Arab states -- is a whole complex of very complicated and very acute problems, which neither U.S. nor Israeli contemporary politicians wish to solve.

Fate of Palestinians

[Pravdin] Our listeners ask about the fate of the Palestinians, and, to be more precise, of the Palestinian detachments which were in Tripoli?

[Belyayev] I think the main thing now is to stress that the military-political structure of the PLO has been preserved. It will continue to develop. I mean that questions linked with the existence of military units in the PLO have by no means been removed from the agenda.

And if, temporarily, all of those military contingents will be in North Yemen or in South Yemen or in any other Arab country, this does not at all mean that the struggle has ceased and that the Palestinians have capitulated. In March, in Algiers, a session, a very important session, I imagine, of the Palestine National Council will be held. It will discuss both the situation which has come about within the PLO and the general military-political situation in the Near East.

Our listeners know that a very complex situation has evolved with regard to the Palestinian resistance movement. The Soviet Union has always opposed and continues to oppose any manifestations of, so to speak, contradictions or internal strife in the Palestinian resistance movement, for internal strife is only to the advantage of Israel and the United States, and does not in any way serve the cause of the Palestinian struggle, the cause of the Arabs' struggle, for a just settlement of the problems of the Near East. Even though the Israeli press noisily reports that after the departure of the Palestinian fighters from Beirut, and now from Tripoli -- Beirut is in the center of Lebanon and Tripoli in the north of that country -- some people say that the Palestinian resistance is finished, It is really nothing of the sort. And not only the resistance, but also the struggle for the implementation of national rights of the Arab Palestinian people, for the creation of an independent Arab Palestinian state. Of course, I will not make guesses about how conditions for the Palestinians' struggle will take shape in the very near future. I will merely stress that the Palestinian element is one of the most important in resolving the region's problems, and I think that if the Arab countries were to act in a united front and were to fight for the implementation of the Fes initiative, for a just solution of the Palestinian problem, a solution which would envisage the satisfaction of the national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, the Palestinians and all those wishing to see peace in the Near East would win.

Iran-Iraq War

[Pravdin] Comrades (Poluchayev) from the town of Balakovo, Saratov Oblast, (Myachin) from Volgodonsk, and (Petrov) from Balaklava ask about the war between Iran and Iraq and the situation on the Iran-Iraq front. Our listeners quite correctly call this armed conflict between the two neighboring countries one that has dragged on. It should be added further that it is a senseless and unnecessary war. It has already caused many human victims and much material damage to both sides. This conflict causes great harm to the cause of the unity of the nonaligned countries.

This war, which formally broke out as a result of an unsettled border quarrel, has continued for over 3 years. The bloody war continues, one could say, with alternating successes, at times seeming to die down and at times flaring up with renewed force. According to the foreign press, in these 3 years both sides have lost the lives of almost 180,000 soldiers and officers, as well as civilians; over 600,000 people have been injured. The war has undermined the economy of the two countries; losses amount to many thousands of millions of dollars. The oil industry of the two countries has particularly suffered. Iraq has been forced to reduce its so-called rapid development plan. Iran's economy has been put back a decade.

The only ones to gain from this war are the imperialist forces, primarily the United States, and also U.S. and international monopolies which supply weapons. Washington uses this conflict as a pretext for direct interference into the affairs of Persian Gulf states. The Reagan administration includes this oil-rich region in the notorious sphere of U.S. vital interests. As far back as 1980 Washington sent major naval and air forces to the region. The United States made use of a statement by one of the present Iranian leaders, who threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz to foreign shipping, to send to that region a major combat formation and 2,000 Marines. Moreover, Washington held a series of talks with London and Paris about a so-called coordination of joint military operations in the Persian Gulf in case of necessity.

Our listeners also ask about prospects for ending this conflict. Well, it would seem that the conflict will remain in one form or another until the sides settle their differences. Frequent proposals for ending the military actions have been put forward. The most varied organizations have volunteered their mediation. These include the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference Organization, and several others. However, all of these mediatory missions have failed to yield results. At first the peace initiatives met with no support in Iraq. However, subsequently, the Iraqi leadership announced the withdrawal of its troops from Iranian territory and also its readiness for a cease-fire and to return to the international borders. At present Iran rejects all proposals for the cessation of military actions, stating its readiness to fight on to victory and also demanding considerable compensation from Iraq.

As has already been noted, only the forces of imperialism and international reaction gain from this long and senseless war. As TASS reported, during the recent Moscow talks between the USSR and Iraq, the Soviet side stressed in particular that the cessation of this conflict would be in the interests of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples, and the socioeconomic progress of both states.

PREPARATIONS FOR STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE REPORTED

Deployment Sows 'Mistrust'

LD081703 Moscow TASS in English 1619 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS -- "People now write and speak with hope about a conference on confidence-building measures and on security and disarmament in Europe. The first stage of the conference is to open in Stockholm on January 17," political news analyst Aleksandr Bovin stated today, appearing on Soviet television in the "International Panorama" programme. "The tasks of the first stage of the conference are clearly defined in the final document of the Madrid meeting: to discuss and adopt a package of mutually complementary measures to build confidence and security with a view to lessening the danger of military confrontation in Europe. Such measures will cover the whole of Europe as well as the adjacent sea and air space."

"What is meant concretely when we speak of confidence-building measures?"

"For example, preliminary notifications of big military exercises and big movements of troops; and limiting the scope of military exercises. Of much importance could be the establishment of nuclear-free zones in various parts of Europe or the creation of a corridor free of nuclear battlefield weapons in the center of Europe."

"Of course, such measures cannot be a substitute for disarmament. What will be held in Stockholm is not tantamount either to Geneva or Vienna. Disarmament remains number one problem. One cannot agree with the NATO concept of a possibility of combining confidence-building measures and an arms build-up.

"The fact that the conference in Stockholm will meet in conditions when the deployment of new U.S. missiles in Western Europe has been started, will hardly help to reach mutually acceptable accords. On the contrary, rather. No confidence-building measures can compensate the mistrust which inevitably develops when people see that new missiles are being aimed at them.

"In general the conference is gathering in a complex situation, and the fact that it is nevertheless gathering is indicative of the deep roots that the Helsinki process has struck. To keep and safeguard it in these difficult years is a task of paramount importance."

Soviet-Belgian Talks Held

LD061743 Moscow TASS in English 1707 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 6 TASS -- Soviet-Belgian consultations were held in the USSR Foreign Ministry on January 5-6 on questions of the conference on confidence-building measures, security and disarmament in Europe due to open in Stockholm on January 17, and also on some problems of disarmament and individual aspects of bilateral relations.

Denmark Minister Cited

LD062117 Moscow TASS in English 1926 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Copenhagen January 6 TASS -- The Danish Government favours the convocation in Stockholm of a representative international forum, the first stage of the conference on security and confidence-building measures and disarmament in Europe, to be opened on January 17. Denmark's Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said this at a press conference today.

Much significance should be attached to the Stockholm conference, he said. We believe that its holding opens an opportunity to restore balanced and constructive East-West relations, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said.

UN DEMANDS S. AFRICA END AGGRESSION IN ANGOLA

LD062142 Moscow TASS in English 2043 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] New York January 6 TASS -- Today the U.N. Security Council resolutely condemned the racist regime in Pretoria for its "renewed, intensified premeditated and unprovoked bombing, as well as the continuing occupation of parts of the territory of the People's Republic of Angola".

This is said in a resolution adopted by an urgent meeting of the Security Council, convened at Angola's request. The brazen actions by the racists are described in the resolution as "a flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Angola" which "endanger seriously international peace and security".

The Security Council demanded that South Africa cease immediately all bombing and other acts of aggression and unconditionally withdraw forthwith all its military forces occupying Angolan territory as well as undertake to scrupulously respect the sovereignty of that country.

The resolution requests the U.N. secretary general to follow up and report to the Security Council on the implementation of the present resolution not later than January 10, 1984.

The resolution was carried by 13 votes of Security Council members with only the USA and Britain abstaining, which confirmed the justice of the sharp criticism levelled, during the Security Council meeting, at Washington and its allies for their all-round and open support for the South African racists. It is this support that is egging on Pretoria to commit fresh outrageous acts of brigandage against independent African states.

REAGAN SPEECH TO CUBANS 'MALIGNITY, SLANDER'

LD061614 Moscow TASS in English 1545 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 6 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Yuriy Romantsov writes:

President of the United States Reagan made an address over the radio to the Cuban people. In that address he, specifically, wished the Cuban people a happy new year.

Is it that the President of the United States decided to hold out the olive branch to the people of the neighbouring country against which the United States has been staging continued provocations, including military ones, over the past 25 years? Alas, it becomes clear from the first words that things are quite the opposite, that the President of the United States is personally participating in ideological subversion against Cuba which is on the upswing. His pronouncements, as the THE NEW YORK TIMES pointed out, reflect the opinion of those representatives of the administration who hold that if the Cubans are given a chance to learn the truth as it is seen in Washington, they will rise against their government.

And what is the "truth" as seen by Washington? Reagan at one stroke crosses over the huge achievements of the liberated people which in conditions of a tough economic blockade managed to build thousands of industrial, agricultural and other economic projects, eliminated poverty, wiped out illiteracy and endemic diseases. He ignores the fact that after the victory of the revolution the rates of the economic growth of Cuba, an average of 4.7 percent a year, make up one of the highest indexes in Latin America and that the state now spends dozens of times more funds of health services and education than prior to the revolution.

To put it in a nutshell, the President's address contains nothing but malignity and vicious slander against the neighbouring country. The address also clearly reflects nostalgia for the times when Cuba was a resort appendage to the United States, a gambling-den for American tycoons, a happy hunting ground for the Mafia at contacts with which, by the way, certain representatives of the present administration have been caught.

These are futile dreams. Neither the incendiary speeches of the U.S. President, nor the subversive broadcasts of new anti-Cuban radio station, which, as Reagan stated, will shortly start beaming broadcasts to Cuba, nor the attempts to break Cuba by force can bring it back to the past.

CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM OF LEBANON POLICY VIEWED

PM061458 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Jan 84 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Sharp Criticism"]

[Text] Washington, 2 Jan -- The Pentagon's report on the causes and consequences of the blowing up of the U.S. Marine battalion headquarters in Beirut last October, which contains serious criticism of the administration's course in Lebanon, has evoked a widespread response in U.S. political and public circles. The document raises questions about the aims of the U.S. troops' presence in Lebanon, about why they are suffering casualties there, and about the whole nature of U.S. policy in the region. The White House is blamed for putting the emphasis "on military efforts rather than diplomacy" in its policy. It is pointed out in the document that responsibility for deploying American servicemen in the country on "an unclear political mission" rests entirely on the present administration.

Observers are predicting that when Congress resumes its work the question of U.S. policy in Lebanon will be a main item on the agenda. The opposition, which is seriously criticizing the country's military leadership, attaches great significance to discussion of this problem. Prominent Democratic Party figures seeking the presidential nomination -- W. Mondale, A. Cranston, and G. Hart -- the House of Representatives leadership, and in particular its speaker, T. O'Neill, have called for the withdrawal of American troops from Lebanon. Representative B. Mikulski has stated her intention of submitting a draft resolution demanding the resignation of Defense Secretary C. Weinberger.

Dissatisfaction with the Near East policy is beginning to grip even representatives of the ruling Republican Party. The demand for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Lebanon has been supported, in particular, by R. Michel, Republican leader in the House of Representatives. Senator C. Mathias has put forward a draft resolution calling for the U.S. Marines to be withdrawn from Lebanon by the end of February. Senator J. Warner, who is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has sharply criticized the military leadership. The chairman of this committee, Repuglican G. Taylor, is leaving for the Near East in order "to study on the spot the question of withdrawing American troops from Lebanon," according to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Trying to lessen the intensity of the criticism of his Near East policy, President Reagan has hurriedly assumed personal responsibility for the consequences of the Beirut explosion. He has thus, as the American press writes, attempted to shield the relevant officials and remove the question of anyone being court-martialed. At the same time, THE NEW YORK TIMES writes, the White House head has tried "to divert attention from the main problem," which lies in the "administration's stubborn desire to maintain the U.S. Marines' presence in Beirut." A deputy White House press secretary has stated that the President is "adamant" in his determination not to withdraw U.S. troops from Lebanon and intends to continue to pursue the old policy.

KISSINGER REPORT SUPPORT OF REAGAN POLICY NOTED

LD080733 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Details have been published in Washington about a report by the Kissinger commission for Central America. This commission was set up by the President last summer because of the public's discontent with his policy in the region. What does the commission offer now when the situation in Central America has grown more tense as a result of United States invasion of Grenada and escalated interference in Salvadoran and Nicaraguan affairs? A commentary on that has been prepared by our observer Mikhail Kremnev.

From the outset the White House venture with the Kissinger commission had purely propaganda significance. While the former secretary of state and members of the commission, created on a bipartisan basis, examined the problem and created the impression of a responsible approach to the situation in the region, the administration continued to act. On the President's instruction, aggression against Grenada was carried out and its independence was trampled upon, an undeclared war by CIA against Nicaragua to bring down its government has become larger in scale, and United States involvement in the civil war in El Salvador has been expanded.

However, it would be futile to search in the Kissinger commission's report for any criticism of Ronald Reagan's course. Continuing its mission of covering up the White House policy, the commission proposed that the United States would spend within the next few years another billion dollars on military and economic aid to the nations in the region. And this means that it suggests going along the same road. As is known, over the last 2 years the United States has already spent $1.16 billion on this kind of aid and now another $1 billion is recommended for allocation. The bipartisan Kissinger commission is trying in this way to prove that Reagan's course has some public support, but from this the policy of crusade pursued by the President against Central America does not stop from being adventuristic and dangerous for the nations.

U.S. PUTTING 'IMPERIAL AMBITIONS' BEFORE LAW

LD061528 Moscow in English to North America 0001 GMT 6 Jan 84

["Weekly Comment" by Vladislav Kozyakov]

[Text] Speaking yesterday [4 Jan] in Moscow Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko noted that international life is characterized at the moment by a dangerous degree of tension. The causes of this lie in the militaristic course followed by Washington in a bid for world domination, he stressed. As soon as a nation in any part of the world embarks on a road of national or social liberation, Washington mobilizes against it all the means of exerting political and economic pressure and at times brings its Marines, warships, and warplanes into action.

Now if you look at the map of the world, you will easily find hot spots created by the Reagan administration. One of them is Lebanon, which is thousands of miles away from the United States. Nobody invited American Marines and Navy to Lebanon, but they are there. They have joined the Israeli invaders and occupied the country. The United States interferes in the civil war and has become a belligerent. Moreover, the Pentagon undertakes provocative actions against the Syrian contingent, which is in Lebanon under mandate of the League of Arab Nations.

The latest dispatches say that the United States and Israel are acting in close military cooperation. This week several American planes few over Syrian positions and the Israeli aircraft delivered strikes against the regions controlled by the Syrian contingent. This represents an ever-growing threat of widening hostilities.

Well, let us look now at another region: I mean Angola in Africa, which is also thousands of miles from the American shores. These days the racist regime of Pretoria is expanding its aggression against Angola. The invaders have occupied large segments of Angolan territory. The issue has been brought to the United Nations Security Council, where the delegates of many countries condemned both Pretoria and Washington for the aggression. This is because the Reagan administration regards the racist regime as its close friend and military ally. Besides, it is the American political, economic and military support that has encouraged the South African racists to unleash the war.

Similar developments are taking place in Central America: the invasion of Grenada, the undeclared war against Nicaragua and the interference in the civil war in El Salvador -- such are the actions of the United States in the region. Let us add to this that America is speeding up war preparations also in Asia and the Far East. Practically the White House tries to use cowboy tactics and play the role of a policeman on a global scale, and that runs counter to the interests of international security and the interests of the American people as well.

As the Rev Jesse Jackson said after his mission to Damascus, this present American policy will not work. We, he continued, are pursuing the (?thick stick), the gunboat policy. We need to use the policy of negotiation. This remark by a presidential contender undoubtedly applies not only to the United States' policy in the Middle East but to the administration's policies throughout the world.

The Reagan administration pursues a course which is a real challenge to the world community; it is fraught with ever-growing dangers to international security. If one takes into account Washington's aggressive actions in various parts of the globe, it will become clear, the Soviet foreign minister, Andrey Gromyko, stressed in his speech in Moscow on Wednesday, how much fuel of war has been accumulated in the world through the fault of those who put their imperial ambitions before the time-honored rules of international law evolved over centuries.

MOTIVES BEHIND U.S. 'BASE FEVER' SUGGESTED

LD071833 Moscow World Service in English 1531 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Commentary by Aleksandr Korolev]

[Excerpts] Lately the Asian press has been publishing reports confirming the desire of the United States to build new bases in the Indian Ocean. In Pakistan, for example, two naval bases are being constructed on the coast of the Arabian Sea with American assistance. The Pentagon has started showing great interest in the Trincomalee Naval Base in Sri Lanka and is trying to persuade the Sri Lankan Government to allow the American fleet to use it. This and many other facts prove that the American Administration is having another fit of base fever. What is the microbe that is causing it?

Representatives of the administration account all these fits to the existence of a so-called Soviet menace, but they only make such claims without giving any reason for them because facts prove the opposite. The United States has over 30 military bases in the Indian Ocean while the Soviet Union has none, so where does the threat come from? The Reagan administration prefers to neglect facts and unfavorable comparisons. Representatives of the administration permit themselves to be a little frank only with a small number of people who think as they do. For example, one of the advocates of the theory of an alleged Soviet menace, the American defense secretary, Caspar Weinberger, touched on the true reasons for the American strategy of overseas bases at a session of the International Affairs Council in San Francisco. We have become an insular state, he said.

The explanation of the defense secretary was simple and businesslike: Many resources we need for energy purposes, he said, and many important minerals lie thousands of miles away from our coast. Caspar Weinberger did not exaggerate because the United States gets over 45 percent of most important raw materials from the developing countries. To guarantee access to these resources, the American official said, we must increase our military and naval might.

It is not often that representatives of the administration should so openly connect military preparations with the need to defend the economic positions of American monopolies thousands of miles away from the coast of the United States. Caspar Weinberger had personal reasons for doing so. Before becoming defense secretary he was the vice president of the giant building corporation Bechtel. He continues to hold a notable part of the shares of the corporation, which operates in over 100 countries, mostly in the developing countries where the average norm of profits from investment is over 150-percent greater than in the United States because of the extremely low pay of local workers. This allows Bechtel and scores of other American monopolies to annually extract from the developing countries $14,000 million of profits.

Representatives of the administration describe these interests of American monopolies with which they are closely connected as the vital interests of the United States. To guarantee their monopolies the most favorable climate for robbing the natural resources of young states, the U.S. Government resorts to any means, including military force. It is the microbe of this loyal serving that has caused the base fever we witness these days.

To protect its profitable investments the United States is building new bases in the Indian Ocean, which has been declared a zone of American vital interests. They are setting up their Rapid Deployment Force there.

The brigandage of the Reagan administration in Grenada is an unequivocal warning to the entire community of developing countries that the United States has got rid of the Vietnam syndrome and is ready to play the role of a world policeman again. To guarantee these police functions the United States is expanding the network of its military bases. Under the protection of these bases American industrious citizens will find it easier to make giant profits in the developing countries.

TAFT NAMED NEW DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY

LD062321 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1750 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Washington, 6 Jan (TASS) -- TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Yegorov reports: President Reagan has appointed William Taft as U.S. deputy secretary for defense. He replaces P. Thayer, who had to resign as a result of a noisy scandal caused by the exposure of his financial machinations as chairman of the board of the big military-industrial concern Ling Temco Vought (LTV), and director of one of the country's biggest brewery companies Anheuser-Busch. The commission on control of operations with valuable papers yesterday officially laid a case against Thayer.

Taft, who up until now occupied the post of general adviser at the Defense Department, is a confidant of C. Weinberger, U.S. secretary for defense, whose secretary he was when Weinberger was first chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, then Secretary for Health, Education, and Welfare in President Nixon's administration. In connection with this, it is expected that, unlike Thayer, who had frequent clashes with Weinberger over the distribution of military finding, Taft will follow the Pentagon chief's line unquestioningly.

WHITE HOUSE 'ALARMED' BY INVESTIGATION OF WICK

LD062323 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1758 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Washington, 6 Jan (TASS) -- The General Services Agency has announced the start of an investigation into the illegal activities of Charles Wick, director of the U.S. Information Agency (USIA).

According to White House spokesman Larry Speakes, the scandal around this figure will not assume a large scale. The administration is doing everything to shield Charles Wick, who heads the main U.S. propaganda organ, which is engaged in spreading anti-Soviet slander.

As the press reports, an emergency meeting between the President and Charles Wick took place in the White House on Thursday. To all appearances, the participants, who are friends, discussed the administration's strategy in the arisen situation. Despite the ostentatious calm, the White House is highly alarmed. After all, the present investigation into Charles Wick's activities is only the latest link in a whole chain of loud scandals that have erupted around this figure in the past few months.

ZHAO ZIYANG ON 'OFFICIAL VISIT' TO U.S., CANADA

LD071221 Moscow TASS in English 1153 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Beijing, January 7 TASS -- Zhao Ziyang, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, left Beijing for an official visit to the United States and Canada. He is being accompanied by Wu Xueqian, member of the State Council and foreign minister of the PRC, and Chen Chu, deputy head of the secretariat of the PRC State Council.

Cooperation Talks Previewed

LD091129 Moscow TASS in English 1109 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Washington January 9 TASS -- In connection with the visit to the United States by Premier of the State Council Zhao Ziyang, the American press points out that in the course of the trip negotiations will be held on conclusion of a new bilateral agreement on industrial and technical cooperation. The agreement is to specify the general framework of such cooperation so as to promote closer coordination of efforts in solution of practical issues. It is noted that China, it is believed, will supply to the United States information on its industrial projects where American assistance will be required.

Obviously promoted by the U.S. Administration, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development announced plans of expanding financial and economic "aid" to the People's Republic of China, which is to be granted to Beijing allegedly to continue "economic reforms" inside the country and to create conditions for China to increase purchase of technology and equipment in the West.

In this connection it is noted that more active financial economic support on the part of the bank has the aim to stimulate tendencies in China's foreign and home policy, advantageous to the West. As is believed in the Washington political circles, attainment of an accord with China on cooperation in the above-mentioned spheres, and also in a number of other spheres, specifically in solution of disputable questions, linked with conclusion of an agreement on cooperation in uses of nuclear energy, according to Washington's expectations, will make it possible to envigorate American-Chinese political links.

BRIEFS

CHINESE BOOKS IN MOSCOW -- Moscow January 6 TASS -- A section of literature of the People's Republic of China, which opened in the Moscow Druzhba book store on Thursday, has evoked great interest on book lovers. The section was reopened under an agreement between the two countries' book-trading organisations. Widely represented at the section are works by classics of Marxism-Leninism in Chinese translation, books by prominent Chinese, Russian and Soviet writers, including Ba Qin, Lu Xun, Maxim Gorkiy, and Leo Tolstoy, published in China over the past few years. Customers show interest in albums with reproductions of pictures of the classical Chinese painting, the "Ciyuan" and "Zhonghua Dazidian" dictionaries, and the great Russian-Chinese dictionary. Several hundred dictionaries were sold out yesterday. Many visitors leave book orders which are to be fulfilled in the next few months. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 2119 GMT 6 Jan 84 LD]

JAPANESE MILITARY SATELLITE PLANS CRITICIZED

PM081747 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Jan 84 First Edition p 5

[V. Ovchinnikov "Rejoinder": "'Sakura' in Military Orbit"]

[Text] Japan's National Defense Agency has expressed its intention to expand its arsenal of military reconnaissance facilities. According to a KYODO NEWS AGENCY report, a high-ranking spokesman for the military department has declared that the "Self-Defense Forces" are planning to launch Japanese-made reconnaissance satellites designed to gather military information and, in particular, "for close observation from space of the Soviet Armed Forces in the Far East."

This process has been initiated even though the Japanese Diet adopted a resolution back in 1969 proclaiming its renunciation of the use of space for military purposes. Several months ago the cabinet approved the reequipping of "Sakura" telecommunication satellites for military needs, supposedly in connection with the requirements of the garrison stationed on the remote Ogasawara Islands. But it is perfectly clear that satellite communication is needed not for this alone. The launch of "Sakura" into military orbit has been made necessary, above all, because the Japanese Air Force and Navy now intend to operate not only in the country's airspace and territorial waters but also in an extensive zone extending 1,000 miles from Japan's coasts.

At the same time the National Defense Agency is also planning to adapt for its own needs satellites of another type designed to study natural resources. Their ability to identify objects on the earth's surface could serve for purposes of military reconnaissance.

The space ambitions of generals and admirals are creating valid alarm among Japan's peace-loving public. For it is not just a case of the "Self-Defense Forces" preparing to use orbital satellites for communication and reconnaissance. The point is that ever since the sixties the military-industrial complex has been gradually getting involved in the creation of modern carrier rockets, which, as is known, can also serve as delivery vehicles for nuclear weapons. Therefore, protests against the use of space for military purposes are merging in Japan with the struggle against turning the land of Hiroshima and Nagasaki into a nuclear power.

JAPANESE VIEW ON FAR EAST 'CONFRONTATION' HIT

OW062048 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Igor Vykhukhalev report]

[Text] The Japanese Foreign Ministry has made public its unofficial views on the prospects for the international situation in 1984. In this connection, Radio Moscow Tokyo correspondent Igor Vykhukhalev writes as follows:

The most important conclusion contained in the views of the Japanese Foreign Ministry is that because of the East-West confrontation there is a strong possibility of increasing tension and instability. The Foreign Ministry states that there is a strong sense of crisis in the West because the Soviet Union is moving in the direction of confronting the West and that the West will have to work out a common policy against the Soviet Union on the basis of the political declaration issued at the Williamsburg summit last year.

Of late, there is a strong tendency in the West, including Japan, to interpret the complicated international situation in a very simple way. Whenever the world is at a very crucial moment of coming close to more intensified tension, it is said that such tension is caused by Soviet diplomatic measures and that such tension will result in actions taken by Western countries.

That is the case, for example, with the development of American medium-range missiles in Europe. In short, it has been vigorously publicized that the Soviet Union caused the Geneva talks to break down and, therefore, it became necessary to deploy missiles in Western Europe. The truth, however, is just the opposite. The talks in Geneva broke down because the United States, in an attempt to attain military supremacy, caused the talks to fall through and began to deploy missiles in Western Europe.

As is clear from the views issued by the Foreign Ministry, the Japanese Foreign Ministry has continued to distort those facts on purpose, acting on such concepts as "Japan is a member of the Western bloc," and "Japan and the United States are a community of nations bound together by a common destiny". Under such circumstances there is increasingly strong apprehension that this year Japan will probably speak actively in defense of the global strategy advocated by the United States and NATO member states, just as it gave support to the deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe at Williamsburg last year.

Naturally, the situation in the Far East and the Pacific area was also mentioned in the unofficial views of the Foreign Ministry. While repeating the boring fabrication about the increased Soviet military strength in the Far East, the Japanese Foreign Ministry has gone so far as to say that the United States plays an increasingly important strategic role in the Far East.

On the other hand, it is reported that the long-planned deployment of Tomahawk cruise missiles on American vessels that have U.S. bases in Japan as their home ports will start in March and nuclear warheads will be deployed in June. However, this is certainly a violation of the three non-nuclear principles that the Japanese Government itself has declared and, eventually, it will turn Japan into a nuclear hostage of the United States. In this connection, there is no alternative but to express regret that nothing at all is mentioned in the unofficial views of the Japanese Foreign Ministry about what should be done to lower the level of military confrontation in the Far East or what should be done about the Soviet proposal for strengthening mutual trust. This is the only way to strengthen security for those countries that share common boundaries in this region.

NAKASONE PLAN TO VISIT NORTHERN ISLANDS SLAMMED

OW081203 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 7 Jan 84

[(Dugorkov) commentary]

[Text] Recently, (?newspapers) in Japan have clearly reflected the people's dissatisfaction with the Nakasone administration's domestic and foreign policies. (?Most of) the political critics noted that voters in the recent general election focused on the government's moves to vitalize Japan's role in the U.S. global confrontation strategy against socialist nations -- particularly the USSR -- and that this led to the defeat of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] in that election. As a result, it was expected that the LDP leadership and Prime Minister Nakasone would modify Japanese foreign policy in a direction toward establishing friendship with all countries. Judging from the moves of the second Nakasone Cabinet immediately after its birth, it is doubtful that they are interested in improving relations with neighboring nations at all.

We must conclude that, to the contrary, the Japanese Government is attempting to aggravate Japan-USSR relations in general.

At his New Year press conference, Prime Minister Nakasone said that the Japanese Government would patiently seek negotiations with the USSR and try to seize every opportunity to deepen dialogue. If that were the case, how can one explain a recent SANKEI SHIMBUN report that the prime minister decided to inspect the so-called northern islands in the coming spring? The northern islands in this case mean the southern part of the Soviet Kurile Islands.

It is quite obvious that Prime Minister Nakasone's inspection is aimed at spurring an anti-Soviet campaign in Japan, not at deepening dialogue. Furthermore, Prime Minister Nakasone is attempting to give international momentum to the provocative campaign under the guise of an illegitimate territorial demand of the USSR. According to the SANKEI SHIMBUN report, he intends to take up what he calls a man-made territorial issue at his talks with the leaders of other countries in 1984.

Judging from various factors, Japanese ruling circles seem to be revising their foreign policy. The question is on the direction of the revision, however. It is being revised in the direction of further increasing Japan's color as a faithful U.S. ally while deepening its confrontation and distrust toward socialist nations, the USSR in particular.

The purpose of the so-called inspection by Prime Minister Nakasone is obvious. It is designed only as a new way to spur a rude campaign for pushing the territorial demand against the Soviet Union. However, if top-ranking Japanese officials think they can recover the LDP's declining power by such vulgar means, we must say that they are doomed to a total failure.

U.S. RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER DPRK SCORED

LD071318 Moscow TASS in English 1229 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 TASS -- The KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY reports that on January 6 U.S. "SR-71" reconnaissance planes twice intruded into the air space over the territorial water of the KDPR. Similar flights of the aircraft of the U.S. Air Force were also made on January 3 and 5.

The provocations by the U.S. military, the news agency stresses, are a flagrant encroachment upon the sovereignty of the republic. A KDPR representative in the military commission for armistice in Korea has stated a resolute protest over those criminal actions and demanded that urgent measures be taken to prevent their recurrence.

WOUNDING OF SOVIET OFFICER IN DRA DESCRIBED

PM091154 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Jan 84 Second Edition p 3

[Article by Colonel A. Pimenov under the rubric "Communists in Combat Formation": "Captain Samsonov's Dream"]

[Text] The battalion commander summoned Senior Lieutenant Sergey Samsonov, commander of an armored platoon.

"You will take two tanks to escort the convoy," the battalion comander named the points on the route and specified what the mission was.

"Is everything clear?"

"Absolutely!"

The motorized convoys carrying food and other national economic freight for the Afghan working people are favorite targets for the dushmans' attacks. They operate like spiders: They lay a network of mines on the road while they themselves lie in ambush. That is why our troops assign tanks of infantry combat vehicles to guard the convoys. Senior Lt Samsonov had had to perform similar missions escorting convoys on dozens of occasions; it was already a familiar job. He decided to place one tank closer to the head of the convoy while he himself rode in the other, bringing up the rear, where it was more dangerous. (The dushmans usually try to cut off the last vehicle).

...Following the bends in the road, the convoy entered the mountains. Here in the foothills the landscape is not as depressingly monotonous as it is in the mountains -- the horizon is wider and there are bushes along the road. But Senior Lt Samsonov was not admiring the landscape. He was surveying and assessing the terrain by different yardsticks: Where was the ambush most likely to be?

The road turned sharply to the right and the convoy was hidden round the bend. "It might very well be here," Samsonov thought, and over the tank intercom he issued the order to the crew: "Step up your observation!" At that moment the tank shook sharply as though one of its tracks had struck an enormous rock. An explosion was heard at the same time as the jolt, and there were no doubts left: a mine.

"We've it a vacuum mine," Samsonov commented to himself. He had frequently seen these British-produced articles. Familiar with the dushmans' habit of setting up ambushes next to laid mines, Samsonov issued the necessary orders to the crew. And just in time: The bandits opened fire on the tank. A fire started to blaze from a direct to the barrel carrying additional fuel. Samsonov ordered everyone to abandon the tank.

They jumped out and lay down on the roadside.

"Is everyone alive?" Samsonov shouted.

"Yes!" came the cheerful voices.

Samsonov could already see that everyone was alive, but it was important to him to hear those voices and to understand the condition of his subordinates from their intonation. He noted with satisfaction that the soldiers were experiencing neither panic nor fear. From the sounds of the shots they estimated the bandits' numbers -- there seemed to be 10-12 of them, no more. "Tolerable" was how he assessed the situation. But he realized that reinforcements were needed. He decided to send two men to the next post guarding the sector of the road.

He sent Private V. Ikromov, a gunner, and Private B. Kholmirzayev, an assistant gunner. He designated Ikromov as the leader. As they left he instructed them:

"Move quickly, in short dashes. And keep a good lookout."

The soldiers disappeared into the bushes, followed by Samsonov and driver Private S. Zinchenko. They took turns running. Each ran 15-20 meters, dropped to the ground, and moved to one side. After another dash the dushmans fired from a grenade thrower on the place where Sergey Zinchenko had dropped. The blast raised a cloud of dust and Samsonov rushed to the spot.

"Are you alive?" he asked hoarsely, dropping down next to his comrade. Zinchenko groaned. He was wounded in the legs. Samsonov rapidly applied bandages and tourniquets. He realized the soldier was totally unable to move. He hoisted him onto his back, slung his machinegun over his chest and, selecting the thickest bushes, moved forward.

"Comrade Senior Lieutenant," Zinchenko breathed in his ear. "Leave me in the bushes and come back later, get out of here..."

"Stop that!" Samsonov silenced him. "Take a closer look round." And he joked: "You can see better from up there."

The June sun was blazing mercilessly. Sweat stung his eyes; his mouth was parched.

"Never mind, Sergey, just be patient," he reassured Zinchenko, although the latter was silent, merely emitting rasping breaths from his parched throat.

Rising again with his load, Samsonov suddenly saw a dushman directly in front of him, about 15 meters away. The latter rose up from behind a bush and began to aim his rifle at Samsonov. For a minute they stood looking at each other. Samsonov immediately thought not of himself but of the wounded soldier on his left shoulder. He realized that it was futile to try to avoid the bullet in this situation but nonetheless he moved sharply to the left, dropping to the ground with Sergey Zinchenko. And it seemed as though he first felt the powerful blow to his right shoulder and only then saw the yellow-white tongue of flame from the muzzle of the dushman's rifle.

He decided to get up, putting his weight on his right hand, and collapsed onto the ground with a groan. His lifeless arm buckled behind his back. He wiggled his fingers -- they were working normally, but his arm did not obey him -- he had to drag it from behind his back using his other hand.

He heard the muffled roar of engines, but he could not make out whether the sound was coming from the convoy receding into the mountains or from the other direction. Zinchenko helped Samsonov to make a bandage and placed his arm under his belt to stop it dangling, and they began to think about how to advance further.

Zinchenko again suggested that the platoon commander leave on his own, but the latter would not hear of it. Samsonov tried to carry the soldier, holding on to him with one hand, but it proved beyond his power. Then he lowered him into an irrigation canal and began to push him through the water. It was easier that way. Soon Private Kholmirzayaev brought two infantry combat vehicles from the post. The wounded were sent to the medical station.

And hospital life began for Senior Lt Sergey Samsonov -- with medicines and injections... There were several hospitals. The broken bone obstinately refused to knit. But time, the youth of his vigorous organism, and the doctors' efforts did their work. The long-awaited day came when he said goodbye to the hospitals, the doctors, and all those who had had a part in treating the officer.

Saying goodbye to his patient, one of the doctors inquired:

"Well, Sergey Nikolayevich, where will fate take you now?"

"Wherever we send fate," Samsonov joked. And added in earnest: "I will ask to be sent to my tankmen..."

The doctor said nothing, but merely looked expressively at his right shoulder. Sergey understood the look and smiled.

"It's okay, doctor." And to convince him he moved the shoulder vigorously. "You see?"

"I see, I see."

Samsonov could hear in the doctor's voice doubt as to the correctness of the decision he had made. He did not want to leave with this feeling of disagreement, so Sergey stayed on a few more minutes and told the doctor of an incident which had not simply been carved into his memory but had remained in his brain as an unhealed wound.

...It was in late December, before the New Year of 1982. A delegation of Afghans from the province center had come to the town. They reported that a hamlet had been attacked by bandits who had killed several youth organization activists and had taken the leader away alive -- that meant they would torture and humiliate him. Could they have some help?

The two infantry combat vehicles and the tank advanced toward the hamlet. They were hurrying while it was still light. They did not find the bandits in the hamlet, but the latter had had the time to do their dirty work. They had tied the youngman, alive, to a tree trunk. They had flayed the skin from his belly and back, removing it as far as his neck, tying it in a knot...

"We were all shaken by that cannibalistic ferocity," Sergey Samsonov ended his story. "And that was just one incident out of many." He fell silent and asked quietly, thoughtfully, as though he were talking to himself: "Who will help them if we don't?"

And recently the editorial office received a letter from S. Samsonov, now a captain. A terse, restrained letter, but behind those spare lines you could still understand that it was hard for the man. The letter came from a military hospital near Moscow. The officer reported that after he had been wounded complications had arisen and they had amputated his hand.

"In the first days it was very hard. The nurse obviously noticed and did everything to try to distract me from my unpleasant thoughts. Once she brought me a newspaper clipping and said:

'Look, read this. That man had a far harder time but he held out.' The article described a young political worker, the officer A. Kiselev, who lost both arms saving the life of a soldier. I had read about Kiselev before and had once described him to the soldiers at political classes but when I was in a similar situation myself I somehow forgot about the incident. I reread the article and thought: It really was many times harder for him, why should I lose heart?"

Sergey cheered up and took heart: Perhaps he, like Kiselev, would be allowed to continue serving in the army? Having thought long and hard about it, he decided to write to the editorial office. He closed the letter with a request: "Could you help me to arrange a meeting with Captain A. Kiselev?"

I telephoned Capt Aleksandr Kiselev at the V.I. Lenin Military-Political Academy immediately on reading Captain Samsonov's letter. I couldn't get through to Kiselev, so I phoned him at his apartment that evening.

"I have every sympathy with him," was Aleksandr's reaction, "and certainly I am prepared to meet with him."

...So we went to the hospital. Before going into Sergey Samsonov's ward we met with Valeriy Afanasyevich Topilskiy, the doctor treating him, and inquired about Samsonov's condition.

Valeriy Afanasyevich smiled and said:

"He's fine and in good spirits now. Come along and see for yourselves."

It was not evident at first glance: Samsonov appeared ill at ease and somewhat wary. This did not last long, however. Aleksandr Kiselev is an engaging sort of person, affable with a winning smile, and the tension of those first few moments instantly evaporated. Sergey Samsonov began to smile too, as if to confirm the doctor's assurances.

Thin, wiry and of average height, he gave the impression of a man of stamina and dexterity. He and Kiselev got along immediately and started an animated conversation. When I looked at the two captains, it occurred to me how close they were in spirit, in terms of their views and life stance, despite the outward differences. Neither of them had set out to perform a feat; the circumstances had required them to act with determination, courage, and bravery and, without thinking, they had acted in accordance with the duty of the Soviet soldier -- patriot and internationalist....

For displaying bravery in the execution of his international duty Capt Samsonov had received two Orders of the Red Star. It was with a question about the orders that the conversation began. Not just about what they were given for, in what circumstances the officer displayed bravery, but more, perhaps, about the source of that bravery....

Sergey Samsonov had spent his whole life in military quarters. Four years previously his father, Nikolay Dmitriyevich Samsonov, had been transferred to the reserve as a colonel after more than 30 years in the Army. Samsonov had been in many garrisons in his time, and the family regarded moving from place to place as a natural part of life. If you get a posting you have to go.

This state imperative had always been the dominant, governing factor in the Samsonov family. There had never been any complaint or discussion about it -- it stood outside all this, an objective necessity.

When it came to generating this atmosphere in the family much depened on Nikolay Dmitriyevich's wife, Anna Anisimovna.

The all-pervading view of military service as a matter of special importance is what made Sergey choose his career and enter the Kharkov Guards Higher Tank Command School named for the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet. It was there that he joined the Communist Party.

His stint in the Red Banner Kiev Military District made a special impression on Sergey Samsonov. Not just because it was there that he underwent his lieutenent's training. But also because, as he saw it, he had had a major stroke of luck: He had been assigned to a leading regiment.

Samsonov looked back on these days and recalled with great affection the names of the officers who were his teachers -- Lieutentant Colonel M. Shatin, Major P. Chvanov, Senior Lieutenant B. Meleshev. They had taught him not only military skills but also how to perform his military duty conscientiously and selflessly...

The conversation went on for a good while. It was gratifying to see Sergy cheerful and ebullient. But from time to time anxiety would appear in his face, like the shadow of a passing cloud. Is there something worrying you? He was evasive:

"No, nothing."

Our meeting took palce on New Year's Eve and as we were about to leave I asked Samsonov what he hoped the New Year would bring, what his dreams were.

"To remain in the Army and get back to work as soon as possible -- that's my dream."

I wished him every happiness and told him I hoped his dream would come true.

DRA UNITS ROUT 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY GANGS'

PM081752 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Jan 84 Second Edition p 3

[Report by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lieutenant Colonel V. Skrizhalin: "Self-Defense Detachment in Combat"]

[Text] Kabul -- A few days ago a representative of the DRA Ministry of National Defense presented (Shir Aga) and (Aref), commanding officers of civil defense detachments, with combat orders awarded to them for high organizational abilities, courage, and heroism demonstrated in conducting operations to destroy counterrevolutionary gangs southeast of Herat. State prizes have also been awarded to five fighters from the civil defense detachments.

Two civil defense detachments numbering in total 720 men (mainly peasants from villages adjoining Herat) fully destroyed after a week of fighting (Gaffer Kal's) gang, which was terrorizing the population of quite a large area to the south of the zone controlled by the detachment headed by (Shir Aga). A serious blow was dealt to other gangs cooperating with (Gaffar Kal). The dushman's total losses amounted to 120 men killed and injured. (Gaffar Kal) himself and his closest aides were also killed. One hundred and ten insurgents and their arms were captured. People's power has been restored to the seven villages liberated from the dushmans.

Analyzing the results of the operation, a DRA Ministry of National Defense spokesman said in an interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's correspondent:

"In terms of the size of the forces involved this operation was unprecedented. For the first time in the history of the struggle against the counterrevolution a strong and well trained enemy has been defeated not by regular troops but by detachments from civil defense formations, to which we had so far assigned only auxiliary functions. The conduct of the operation and its results enable us to conclude that a new force has emerged in the country capable of independent combat actions against the counterrevolutionaries.

"During the week-long fighting we acquired a certain amount of experience in organizing cooperation between irregular [nevoyskovoy] formations and supporting army subunits. Such cooperation has its own substantial specific features and, taking them into account, the future use of civil defense detachments will yield even better results.

"Apart from the specific results of the operation,: the ministry spokesman said in conclusion, "I consider that the main factor is that the prestige of civil defense formations has risen considerably in the country. The victory has boosted morale within the detachments themselves. There has been a significant increase in the influx of people into these detachments and other territorial formations."

BRIEFS

USSR-DRA COOPERATION -- A cooperation agreement has been signed between the Soviet Union and the DRA for mutual cooperation in 1984. According to the agreement, the Soviet Union will be helping the DRA set up a laboratory for struggling against pests in the agricultural domain. It will also supply the DRA with chemicals it will need during 1984 and help it train its experts in various fields. [Summary] [Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 4 Jan 84 GF]

SHIP REFUELING FACILITIES -- Soviet fuel supplies for the regular refueling of merchantmen in Aden and Singapore have been initiated by a trip of the (Tendra) tanker of the Black Sea steamship line. Many foreign steamship lines possess such facilities in various ports all over the world. This enables them to abstain from refueling their ships with foreign fuel, the price of which is constantly going up. A ton of fuel already costs up to $300. [Text] [Kiev to Listeners Abroad in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 25 Dec 83 AU]

PRK, SRV MEETINGS MARK PRK 5TH ANNIVERSARY

PM081755 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Jan 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS reports under the general heading: "Marking the Glorious Anniversary"]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 5 Jan -- Mass meetings and gatherings marking the fifth anniversary of Kampuchea's liberation from the bloody power of Pol Pot's supporters and the proclamation of the PRK are being held throughout the country. Those taking part are emphasizing the historic importance of the victory of the revolutionary-patriotic forces over the regime of genocide and the Kampuchean people's achievements in building the foundations of socialism.

The defeat of the Pol Pot supporters opened up a new era in the lives of the Kampuchean people, Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and chairman of the PRK State Council, stated at a meeting in Phnom Penh. Speaking at the unveiling of a monument to the Vietnamese volunteers, he pointed out that the Kampuchean people will never forget the tremendous aid which the volunteers rendered in liberating the country from the Pol Pot authorities, defending the gains of the revolution, and building a new life in the country.

The Kampuchean people express profound thanks to the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and all Vietnamese people for their firm support for the Kampuchean revolution. The relations of fraternal friendship, combat solidarity, and all-around cooperation between Kampuchea, Vietnam, the Soviet Union, and the other fraternal countries will continue to strengthen and develop steadily, the Kampuchean leader stressed.

Hanoi, 5 Jan -- A Vietnamese-Kampuchean friendship meeting has been held in the SRV capital. Representatives of the Hanoi public noted that the Kampuchean people's historic gains were achieved under the leadership of the People's Revolutionary party of Kampuchea, in close alliance with the Vietnamese and Lao peoples and thanks to solidarity with the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries.

As Huu, member of the CPV Central Committee Politburo and vice chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers, noted, the 5 years which have elapsed since the overthrow of the criminal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique have been marked by the all-around development of relations of fraternal cohesion and combat solidarity between the Vietnamese and Kampuchean peoples.

PRK'S 'IRREVERSIBLE' NATIONAL REBIRTH HAILED

LD072211 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Today is the fifth anniversary of Kampuchea's liberation from the bloody Pol Pot regime and the declaration of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. Yevgeniy Kachanov, our commentator is at a microphone.

The Soviet Union, Vietnam and other socialist countries give a great assistance to people of Kampuchea. Five power stations and a polytechnical institute are being constructed with the help of the USSR. Our doctors are giving medical assistance to the population. More than 1,000 students from People's Kampuchea are studying in the Soviet Union.

The international authority of the young republic is also increasing. The message of greetings from the CPSU Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers, points out that since People's Kampuchea was formed it has contributed to the struggle of nations for the consolidation of peace and international security. Together with fraternal countries of Indochina, the People's Republic of Kampuchea is in favor of restoring good-neighborly relations among all states of Southeast Asia, and the improvement of the situation in the area. It is well known that the source of tension in Southeast Asia is the imperialist policy of Washington and its allies who, contrary to historical justice, continue to arm and support the so-called Coalition Government consisting of enemies of the people of Kampuchea such as Sihanouk, Son Sann and Pol Pot supporters. Their provocative activities from the territory of neighboring Thailand is a destabilizing factor in the area. However, the young republic resists these schemes of reaction. The process of Kampuchea's national rebirth which started exactly 5 years ago is irreversible.

SRV URGES PRC TO HALT BORDER HOSTILITIES

PM061655 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Jan 84 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Note Presented"]

[Text] Hanoi, 5 Jan -- In a note presented to the PRC Embassy in the SRV, the SRV Ministry of Foreign Affairs has invited the Chinese side to renounce any kind of armed action along the border between the two countries from 30 January to 19 February to let the population in Vietnam's and China's border regions celebrate the lunar New Year peacefully.

This initiative, the document notes, considers the interests and aspirations of the two countries' peoples. It is aimed at easing tension along the border between the two states and will help create a favorable atmosphere for resolving problems of bilateral relations.

The SRV Government has also decided to hand over to the Chinese side a number of PRC citizens captured on Vietnamese territory, in connection with the New Year holiday.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CONGRATULATES THAI PREMIER

PM051254 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 84 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Exchange of Telegrams"]

[Text] The USSR Council of Ministers has sent Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon a telegram conveying congratulations and wishes for prosperity to him and the entire Thai people on the country's national holiday. The telegram expresses confidence that the development of relations between the Soviet Union and Thailand will strengthen peace and stability in Southeast Asia and throughout the world.

In a reply telegram P. Tinsulanon expressed gratitude for the congratulations and good wishes.

PRAVDA CHIEF EDITOR AFANASYEV INTERVIEWED

AU090948 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 8 Jan 84 pp 1, 2

[Interview given by Viktor Afanasyev, CPSU Central Committee member and chief editor of PRAVDA, to Dimitur Gornenski -- date and place not given]

[Text] Question: Viktor Grigoryevich, please outline the situation after the interruption [prekusvane] of the USSR-U.S. talks in Geneva, and share with us your opinion on the eventual development of the situation.

Answer: It is easier for me to describe the existing situation. It is more difficult to forecast the development of the international situation. This is so because this development involves decision-making, and I am not a high-ranking politician who could know in advance how the situation will develop. For example, will the Soviet representatives agains sit at the negotiations table, when will they return to the negotiations, for what reason, under what conditions, or, perhaps, why will they not return to the negotiations? Those are complex and profound questions. I think that even leaders of the highest rank cannot answer these questions at the moment, simply because this is a very complex knot of questions which cannot be answered with a univocal answer.

However, as far as forcasts are concerned, I could say something. The time will come when the negotiations will resume, but at present it is difficult to point out when. I personally am convinced that one can hardly expect any sinigicant changes as long as the present Washington administration is in power. It has been said too often in the United States and other Western countries that the USSR must soon resume the dialogue with the U.S. representatives. Some are saying this with the hope that it will help Reagan's reelection. This is a delusion, because our foreign policy has never been based on ad hoc considerations.

Question: It is obvious, however, that precisely the problems of war and peace are obtaining special significance in the forthcoming preparations for the U.S. presidential elections and will probably influence the final results. Is this not what logic demands?

Answer: Yes, this is so. All Democratic Party representatives who declared their candidacy in the presidential elections -- Mondale, Glenn, and Jackson -- stated that they would conduct a foreign policy course different from Reagan's. They reject the MX missile system and other rearmament programs, have repeatedly stressed that they oppose cutting state expenditures for social needs in order to increase the military budget, and so forth. They completely oppose Reagan's present policy. Let us think: If at this moment we again were sit at the negotiation table -- and I would like to stress that this is a table which is completely void of any meaningful presence on the part of the U.S. representatives, who did not present one acceptable proposal with which we could agree, or one idea in addition to the insistent demand for unilateral disarmament onthe part of the USSR -- what would this mean?

They must finally understand that their line leads nowhere. They forget that our country has lived through much more difficult times. The generations which remember the Leningrad blockade, and the tests of Stalingrad, and the people who achieved our victory over Hitlerite-fascism with a daily ration of 200-300 grams of bread, are still alive. Now the Soviet people are living well. Perhaps not as well as we would like, because we also have difficulties, but at any rate no one get us by the throat.

Thus, returning to the matter of the forecasts, I shall repeat -- we shall not return to the negotiating table as long as we do not have the assurance that these negotiations will bring positive results. They must contribute to detente, bring calm, and strengthen security and peace.

As much as they would like to twist and zigzag, and as often as they would repeat that the USSR will be ready to return to the negotiations, the Washington politicians of the Reagan team are engaging in delusions and self-delusion. On what should the USSR negotiate with them? They have already begun deployment of medium-range missiles in some West European countries. For them this was the main goal, rather than reaching an agreement at the Geneva negotiations.

Question: You mentioned that one of the goals of the Washington administration's present foreign policy is to harm the present socioeconomic course of the USSR. How realistic is this goal?

Answer: Briefly -- their designs in this area are also wrong. Our party has inspired the entire people to brisk and strict work. Earlier, we also devoted attention to the issues of discipline, order, and organization, but not as systematically as now. In the past this issue was treated somewhat sporadically. Things are much different now. The entire CPSU line, as pointed out by Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov at the CPSU Central Committee June 1983 Plenum, aims at introducing a strict order in everything of which our country disposes. It is well known that the USSR is a rich country. We have everything we need -- natural resources and possibilities. We have a wonderful people, remarkable workers' class, skillful agricultural workers, and talented intelligentsia. We have a leading party which has a great historic experience, both in struggle and construction. Our most topical goal is to better utilize all these invaluable factors. We must improve our organization, stabilize discipline, and strengthen responsibility. This is a strict and long-range course.

Question: You can probably share your direct impressions on how this course is being received by the Soviet people?

Answer: One witnesses a mass and nation-wide support. The PRAVDA editorial board receives 500-600,000 letters annually. Recently we have noticed that more of these letters touch upon the sharp problems tagged for solution by our party. Naturally, I cannot read all the mail, but I am acquainted with a certain portion, and informed about the other. The people unreservedly support the course aimed at better order and discipline in all areas of public life. They demand that everyone work diligently and be held strictly responsible for the results of his work, regardless of whether he is a worker or a minister. One can develop his activity, creativity, and citizen's attitude toward labor only if he understands his tasks, and considers them both near and understandable, and perceives their social significance and the correspondence of personal and public interests.

Our problem is that we still have not found the precise factors and decisions for stimulating personal and public activity. Ideally, they would appear as follows: what is good for me must also be good for you and the collective, both in the material and moral meaning of the word in its broadest sense. In addition, personal and collective interests must be beneficial for the entire society. Otherwise social progress will be aggravated and delayed. Under the conditions of capitalism, where competition rules, everything is clear -- what is unprofitable must be crushed and destroyed. We cannot do this in our humane society. Our progress must be the result of combining personal, collective, and public interests.

This is the direction of our efforts, and they are already rendering positive results. I therefore permitted myself to note the aforementioned expression: the design of the imperialistic strategists is wrong. Regardless of the existing difficulties, which are connected with the aggravation of the international situation, our country will further develop in the tempo outlined by the party, will strenthen its economic and defensive might, and will increase the material and spiritual well-being of the Soviet people.

It will continue to make its contribution to the prosperity of the fraternal socialist countries, and will be ever so consistently loyal in its dedication to the cause of peace, understanding, and cooperation among peoples.

Question: Viktor Grigoryevich, please answer a more personal question. It concerns the fact that in Bulgaria you are also known as a noted scientist, philosopher, active member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and author of tens of books and hundreds of other works, and also by your contributuion to the training of many active figures of Bulgaria's science and specialists. On what is your scientific work concentrated just now?

Answer: My duties as PRAVDA chief editor and public figure impose significant limitations on my scientific creativity. Only my free time can be used for this. During recent years I have completed several works, which are varied in their scope, including the changes in the last, 12th edition of the textbook "Foundations of the Philosophical Studies," for which I received the USSR State Prize. For more than 30 years I have been working on the book "Living Systems," which is concerned with exceptionally topical problems of biology and philosophy. This is a book about living organisms -- a very complex theme, which has been subjected to so much speculation and so many complications that it is difficult to understand its real essence. I have dealt with this work for more than 30 years already, and I hope to finish it soon. Of course, in the mean time other works of mine have been published. In recent years two of my books have appeared: "System and Society" -- which has been translated into Bulgarian, and my most recent two-volume work -- "Society, System, Knowledge, Administration" -- which is a result of 25 years of research.

WORKING CONDITIONS MOOD IN POLISH PLANT NOTED

PM081849 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Jan 84 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent L. Toporkov "Polish Reportage" "On Kielce Soil"]

[Excerpts] Kielce-Warsaw -- The Iskra Bearing Plant is in Kielce. There, we were told, they are very responsive to both technical progress and social questions. We spent a whole day there and spoke with economic, party, trade union, and ordinary workers.

"We have a large collective, about 6,000 people," enterprise director Mieczyslaw Chyb said. "We produce annually 75 million bearings and a further 10 million vehicle spark plugs. Part of the output is intended for export. Things are now going better. We are seeking to raise the degree of mechanization and automation of production processes. But the most important thing for us is not equipment as such, but people -- their work attitude, working conditions, and the rational use of working time by everybody."

The director was backed up by PZPR Committee Secretary Alfred Misior. Yes, he said, in present conditions, when the consequences of the crisis phenomena and at times also the actions of antisocialist forces directed from abroad are still being felt, it is especially important to find an approach to each individual, to know his concerns and needs, and to induce people to work in a way which is not formal or indifferent but conscientious, intensive, and worthy of people in a socialist society. It is essential, he continued, to rid ourselves decisively of the officious, bureaucratic attitude toward working people which is still prevalent in some places. Responsiveness to people is a law in a socialist state, and a law which must not be violated.

During our talks at the Iskra Plant the idea that an enterprise is a place where not only material but also ideological, spiritual, and moral values are produced was often repeated. Here everything is interconnected. Efficient labor organization and higher productivity make it possible to obtain better economic results and thus replenish the social development funds.

All this is having a beneficial effect on labor productivity and the moral climate in the collective. There is no more of the antagonism between party and nonparty members and between the members of the new trade union, numbering about 1,500 people, and those who have not yet joined it which was fanned in every possible way by hostile elements. And this atmopshere is strengthening despite hysterical entreaties from the remnants of the counterrevolutionary underground. There is no return to those days of sad memory when anarchy was at a feverous pitch or even to recent times when there were still people to be found who listened to the hostile calls to dawdle at their benches and create the appearance of working -- the "loafers" have disappeared from Iskra.

Increasingly they are turning here to a valuable social initiative which once yielded excellent results but which, unfortunately, has been wrongly forgotten during the events of recent years. It is a question of the "DO-RO" mass movement, which means good work ("dobra robota"). It provided both moral and material incentives for seeking rational technical decisions, an increase in labor productivity and output quality, and economical expenditure of raw materials and energy.

"As the saying has it," Henryk Raszewski, deputy chairman of the plant trade union, commented, "the new is what has been well forgotten, and this kind of old idea deserves to be resurrected. Right now we are operating in precisely this direction. All out. At every work place. This is precisely what Poland is so acutely lacking today. Hence our slogan of rehabilitating this formerly popular movement."

One additional theme which constantly ran through the meetings at Iskra and other enterprises on Kielce soil was the strengthening of the traditional ties of friendship that unite the voivodship with the Ukraine's Vinnitsa Oblast. Friendly ties were established 25 years ago now. You will probably not find a single major collective here which has not received Soviet visitors. The voivodship section of the Polish-Soviet Friendship Society brings together more than 100,000 people.

REPORTAGE ON GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS

Romanov Address

LD062054 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 6 Jan 84

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Excerpts] The seventh German Communist Party congress [DKP] opened in Nurenberg today.

The CPSU delegation at the congress is headed by Grigoriy Vasilyevich Romanov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Grigoriy Vasilyevich Romanov, head of the CPSU delegation, spoke to participants in the congress at today's evening session, and was met with stormy applause.

[Begin Romanov recording] Dear Comrades. The CPSU delegation is sincerely glad for this opportunity to take part in the work of the seventh German Communist Party Congress, a party of patriots and internationalists with which the great Lenin's party is tied by firm bonds of fraternal friendship. It gives me great pleasure to carry out a personal instruction from Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, to convey his cordial greetings to you. Comrade Andropov sends wishes for success in the work of the congress in all the activities of the communists of the Federal German Republic. [applause]

Your congress is taking place under the slogan of mobilizing the country's forces against the increased danger of war, against the deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles in the FRG, in favor of achieving implementation of the demand: Work Instead of Missiles. Your alarm and aspirations are well understood by us. Today the question of whether it will be possible to direct the development of events onto the tracks of detente and avoid military confrontation is worrying millions of people in all countries of the planet.

Who is it that bears responsibility for the sharp deterioration of the world situation? This is a far from academic question. Imperialism is striving to show that socialism is the source of the tension, or at least to drag in the idea of alleged equal responsibility of the USSR and the United States, the Warsaw Treaty and NATO, for such tension. Many in the West, including in the Federal Republic of Germany, are resorting to the well and truly worn out thesis of the Soviet military threat. But you communists know well that there has been and is no such threat. The Soviet people, like our friends in the socialist community, want one thing -- to live and work in peace.

The CPSU Central Committee plenum held on the eve of the New Year examined the state plan for the country's economic and social development for 1984, which was then adopted by the regular session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Communists and the whole Soviet people have perceived the profound evaluations and conclusions on the basic directions of the further development of the national economy contained in the speech of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov as a militant, specific program of action. We look to tomorrow with optimism, and we know that the tasks posed will be resolved.

Dear comrades. May I assure you that the party of Lenin will continue to strengthen traditional friendship and cooperation with the German Communist Party. [applause] [end recording]

Zagladin on Summit Possibility

WA091100 London REUTER in English 1846 GMT 6 Jan 84

[By Ralph Bolton]

[Text] Nuernberg, West Germany, Jan 6, REUTER -- A top Soviet official said today that Kremlin leader Yuriy Andropov is recovering from his illness.

"He was ill and is getting better. He is working and taking part in all party affairs," said Vadim Zagladin, first deputy of the Soviet Communist Party's Information Department. He declined to say what illness Andropov had.

Andropov disappeared from public view August 18 and is reported to have suffered kidney and heart ailments.

Zagladin also told REUTERS that Moscow still approved the principle of a summit between Andropov and President Reagan, but added:

"I do not see a genuine wish on the part of the U.S. for serious negotiations that could produce results."

Zagladin was in Nuernberg to attend a West German Communist Party meeting with Grigory Romanov, regarded by some as a possible successor to Andropov.

Romanov, a Politburo member, told the West German Communist Party congress meeting here that Moscow would maintain an East-West arms balance. He also branded the U.S. invasion of Grenada last year as a criminal act and condemned U.S. air attacks on "patriots" in Lebanon.

"Amid all this Washington hypocritically insists the U.S. is working for arms reduction. These are just empty words and the reality is otherwise.

"One type of weapon replaces another as this unprecedented increase in arms potential continues," Romanov said.

In a reference to the stationing of new U.S. nuclear missiles in West Germany, he said Moscow was taking retaliatory measures only to preserve an East-West arms balance achieved in the 1970s.

"It cost the Soviet people huge efforts and vast resources to achieve the goal (of a balance). But the preservation of this balance is of exceptionally great importance," he said.

Andropov announced last year that the Soviet Union would install new short-range nuclear weapons in Eastern Europe to counter new NATO rockets.

Romanov made clear that the Soviet Union would not return to talks in Geneva on limiting medium-range nuclear missiles as long as the Pershing 2 and cruise missiles remained in Europe.

He made no reference to Geneva talks on intercontinental missiles or Vienna talks on conventional troop reductions, which have also been interrupted.

Romanov, 60, a stocky man with well-groomed, swept-back silver hair, looked calm and self-assured as he delivered the 30-minute address.

The 800 delegates frequently applauded and gave him a three-minute standing ovation.

Western diplomats see the presence of Romanov, who rarely visits the West, as a possible move to increase his experience outside the Soviet bloc.

Romanov Meets DKP's Mies

LD071447 Moscow TASS in English 1410 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Nuernberg January 7 TASS -- A meeting took place here today between Grigoriy Romanov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee who is leading a CPSU delegation to the 7th congress of the German Communist Party, and Herbert Mies, chairman of the German Communist Party. Herbert Mies told Grigoriy Romanov about the pressing tasks of the German Communist Party in the struggle against the deployment of new U.S. nuclear missile weapons in the Federal Republic of Germany and for social and democratic rights of the West German working people and in consolidating the party's ranks. Herbert Mies stressed the major importance of the fact that the congress is being attended by a representative CPSU delegation, which is another confirmation of fraternal links between the German Communist Party and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Grigoriy Romanov expressed the conviction that the 7th congrsss of the German Communist Party and its decisions will give another impetus to the struggle by the West German Communists to ensure the interests of the working people of their country and to preserve peace.

Sitting in on the conversation also were Leonid Gorshkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Kemerovo regional committee of the CPSU, Vadim Zagladin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy head of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, Vladimir Semenov, the USSR's ambassador to the FRG, Hermann Gautier, deputy chairman of the German Communist Party, and Werner Cieslak, member of the presidium of the board of the German Communist Party.

The conversation was held in an atmosphere of friendship that is characteristic of relations between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the German Communist Party.

CPSU Greetings

PM061433 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Jan 84 First Edition p 1

[Text] To the seventh German Communist Party [DKP] Congress

Dear Comrades!

The CPSU Central Committee and all Soviet Communists send fraternal militant greetings to the delegates to the seventh DKP Congress. Through you we greet the FRG Communists -- genuine patriots and consistent internationalists loyal to the great ideas of Marx, Engels, and Lenin.

Your congress is taking place at a perturbing time for mankind. Through the fault of imperialism, primarily U.S. imperialism, the world situation has sharply deteriorated. Having launched an unprecedented arms race and declared a "crusade" against socialism as a social system, U.S. imperialism is seeking thus to halt social progress, suppress revolutionary movements and progressive forces, and secure world domination.

An important element in these plans has been the deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles targeted on the socialist countries on the territory of a number of West European states, including the FRG. This act hostile to the cause of peace has enhanced the threat of a nuclear war, which would inexorably affect all peoples.

In this situation the rallying of the broad people's masses in the struggle for peace and the galvanization of the actions of the Communist and Workers Parties -- the most consistent fighters against the danger of war -- has become more important than ever. Soviet people assess highly the DKP's efforts aimed at ensuring that the conflagration of world war never again begins on German soil and the vigorous actions of the FRG Communists to stop the deployment of the Pershing II missiles and to ensure their withdrawal from West German territory, which would fully accord with the FRG's national interests.

The DKP's courageous struggle against anticommunism and anti-Sovietism, its exposure of the myth of the "Soviet military threat," and its consistent support for the socialist community countries' peace initiatives and proposals are well known in our country.

Engaged in constructive labor, the Soviet people are always ready to defend the gains of Great October, to uphold the interests of socialism, and prevent the undermining of the security of our country and the other socialist community states. That is the aim of the necessary steps recently taken by the Soviet Union and mentioned in the 24 November 1983 statement by Yu. V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. At the same time the Soviet Union will continue to do everything possible to stop the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, to eliminate the threat of a devastating nuclear war, and to implement Lenin's policy of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems, to which there is no sensible alternative.

Soviet Communists intend to continue to strengthen their traditional ties of fraternal solidarity with the DKP and to deepen and develop contacts and links with it.

We wish the FRG Communists -- the continuers of the cause of Ernst Thaelmann -- the further consolidation of their influence among the masses and new successes in their struggle for the vital interests of the working class and all working people, for their social and democratic rights, and for the conservation of peace on our continent.

Long live the DKP -- one of the militant detachments of the world communist movement!

May the indestructible friendship between the Communists of the Soviet Union and the FRG strengthen!

Long live peace throughout the world!

CPSU Central Committee

Congress Activities Detailed

LD071513 Moscow TASS in English 1221 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Nuernberg January 7 TASS -- The seventh congress of the German Communist Party [DKP] is going on here. More than 800 delegates who have arrived here to attend the forum from all over the country are discussing the most urgent problems which are uppermost in the minds of the working population of the FRG.

The agenda of the congress is expressed in the DKP's pithy slogan "Peace must triumph. Our demand is: Jobs instead of missiles!" This motto finds reflection in the discussion which has developed at the congress on the DKP board's report delivered by the party's chairman Herbert Mies.

The delegates who represent at the congress the dockers of Hamburg, shipbuilders of Bremen, miners and engineering workers of Ruhr, and peasants of Bavaria emphasize in their speeches the close connection between the West German Communists' struggle for peace, against the arms race and against the deployment of U.S. missiles in the country's territory, and the struggle in defence of the socio-economic rights of the working class and all working people.

The delegates of Hamburg, Saar region, and Munich who took part in the discussion emphasized that the "economic upswing" which the government of the conservatives and the liberals has promised to the population has resulted in an unprecedented growth of mass unemployment which affects more than nine per cent of the country's population able to work. The monopolies' onslaught on the rights of the working people is being accompanied with the increase in military preparations in the FRG as well as with the infringement upon the Constitution-proclaimed democratic freedoms, and with the authorities' connivance at the intrigues of the neonazis.

The composion of the participants in the forum indicates that the DKP is a party which represents the interests of the working people: 76 per cent of delegates are workers and employees, and six per cent are students. Women account for more than a third of the delegates.

The internationalism and high international prestige of the DKP is evidenced by the fact that the party's forum in Nuernberg is being attended by delegates of more than 40 fraternal communist and workers' parties and national-liberation movements. The CPSU delegation at the congress is headed by Grigoriy Romanov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Many foreign guests of the forum took part in four mass meetings that have been held in Nuernberg. Among speakers at one of the meetings was Leonid Gorshkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, first secretary of the Kemerovo Regional Committee of the CPSU.

A concert in Nuernberg's "Meistersingerhalle" with the participation of a number of prominent soloists and music collectives became a kind of greetings to the congress on behalf of the FRG's progressive workers in the field of culture.

The agenda of the congress includes elections of the party's leading bodies. The Congress of the Communists of the FRG is to complete its work tomorrow.

Congress Closes 8 Jan

LD081527 Moscow TASS in English 1442 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Nuernberg January 8 TASS -- TASS correspondent A. Grigoryev reports:

The Seventh Congress of the German Communist Party (DKP), the go-ahead vanguard of the FRG's working people in the struggle for peace, against deployment of U.S. first-strike nuclear missile weapons in the country, for their social and economic rights, came to a close here today.

More than 800 delegates to the congress representing more than 50,000 West German communists worked for three days in an atmosphere of unity and cohesion. Their forum summed up the impressive results of the party's activities since the previous congress of the DKP in Hanover, discussed the DKP's tasks in further struggle against deployment of U.S. "Pershing-2" and cruise missiles in the country's territory, against the onslaught by the monopolies and the forces of reaction on the vital rights of the working population of the FRG.

The congress was attended by delegates of more than 40 fraternal communist and workers' parties and national-liberation movements. The CPSU delegation at the Nuernberg forum was headed by Grigoriy Romanov, member of the Politicial Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Delegates who spoke in the discussion of the report of the DKP board pointed out the communists' steady resolve to remain in the front ranks of the massive movement for peace, against the realisation of the omious designs of the U.S. and NATO military and of the CDU-CSU-FDP Bonn coalition which follows in the wake of Washington.

The delegates mentioned as one of major tasks of the party the activisation of explanatory work among the country's population to bring home to the broadest masses of people the danger of the conversion of the FRG into the Pentagon's nuclear spearhead.

Speeches by delegates at the congress were keynoted by the idea of the communists' responsibility for explaining to the West German citizens the peaceful foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state and of the other countries of the socialist community. The call by the DKP board to make 1984 a year of struggle and action for peace and security has found a ready response and support at the congress.

A resolution which was unanimously adopted at the forum sets up a programme of the party's further actions in the struggle for peace and disarmament, for the solution of such urgent problems of the country as mass unemployment which has affected more than 2.3 million people, discrimination against women and foreign workers, the anti-constitional practice of "berufsverbot" (bans on employment), and the lack of young people's prospects for the future.

The congress elected the party's leading bodies. Herbert Mies has been reelected the chairman of the DKP, and Hermann Gautier was elected deputy chairman of the party.

The congress ended with the singing of the Internationale.

Romanov At Anti-Nazi Monument

LD071718 Moscow TASS in English 1653 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Nuernberg January 7 TASS -- The delegates and foreign guests of the 7th congress of the German Communist Party today paid tribute to the memory of the victims of Nazism and war. They laid down wreaths and bouquets of flowers at the pedestal of the monument to the members of the anti-Nazi resistance movement at the Nuernberg cemetery Suedfriedhof. A wreath from the CPSU delegation to the congress was placed by delegation leader Grigoriy Romanov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

'REVANCHIST CONTAGION' SEEN IN FRG POLITICS

PM081903 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Jan 84 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Revanchists Become Insolent"]

[Text] Bonn, 4 Jan — These long-since gray-haired gentlemen deputies arrive punctually for Bundestag (West German parliament) sessions, and day and night behind its walls they conduct unbridled revanchist propaganda, slander the socialist countries, and demand the revision of the postwar borders.

There are 41 of them in the Bundestag representing very motley groupings, unions of "eternally yesterday's men" who stubbornly refuse to believe that there cannot and will not be any return to the former times when fascist terror reigned.

The revanchists were particularly invigorated after the new conservative Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union-Free Democratic Party [CDU/CSU-FDP] coalition came to power on the Rhine. Indeed, how could they fail to be invigorated when Bonn politcians such as Minister of Internal Affaris F. Zimmermann and Minister for Inner-German Relations H. Windelen began zealously to speak in support of their monstrous demands. The former represents the reactionary party of Strauss -- the CSU -- and the latter the conservative CDU.

As the weekly DEUTSCHE VOLKSZEITUNG-TAT emphasized, Windelen has always been renowned for his close ties with revanchists. It was precisely at his insistence that notorious "documentation" was once concocted on some alleged crimes by Russians and Poles against German exiles" [quotation marks as published] -- a malicious lampoon in which a a clumsy attempt was made to lay the blame for monstrous crimes during World War II not on Hitler's butchers but on the victims of the fascist aggression.

Herr Zimmermann also indulges the revanchists. In his speeches he lavishes all kinds of praise on their "services" and assures them that "the exiles' activity meets with the new government's full support" and that "the government will defend their interests with all persistence."

What is more, Zimmermann himself is active in the revanchist field. Thus, he has asserted that "Germany exists within the 1937 borders" and that "in addition to the territories of the FRG and the GDR the new FRG Government also includes the lands to the east of the Oder and Neisse in the resolution of the German question." These irresponsible statements of Zimmermann's were evaluated by the FRG democratic public as a clear attempt to cast doubt on the existence of the postwar state borders in Europe.

The strengthening of revanchist trends in the FRG is a dangerous phenomenon which democrats and antifascists refuse to tolerate. Their demand to bar the way of revanchist contagion is being heard increasingly strongly.

Belgium Loyal To 'Atlantic Solidarity'

PM051654 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jan 84 First Edition p 5

[Dispatch by correspondent V. Drobkov under general heading: "Missiles and Europeans": "They Are Being Forced to 'March in Step'"]

[Text] Brussels, 3 Jan -- The final 1983 session of the Belgian Council of Ministers discussed problems connected with the deployment of new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in West Europe.

A government statement notes that given the lack of an agreement on limiting these armaments in Europe, "the deployment program should continue in accordance with the envisaged rhythm and schedule." For Belgium, the NATO "schedule" provides for the start of the deployment of 48 cruise missiles.

The statement also speaks of Brussels' adherence to the 1979 NATO "two-track" decision. As is well known, having initiated the deployment of cruise missiles in Britain and Pershing II missiles in the FRG at the period when talks were underway in Geneva, Washington and NATO essentially deliberately torpedoed the process of seeking an accord. NATO's "two-track" decision was thus merely a screen to expedite preparation for the delivery of first-strike U.S. nuclear weapons to Europe.

Considering the widespread antimissile feelings among the Belgian public (according to public opinion polls up to 80 percent of Belgians are opposed to new missiles in West Europe), the government refrained from immediately announcing its consent to the initiation of the cruise missile deployment in Belgium.

Observers note the mounting pressure on Belgium and the Netherlands from Washington and NATO which are trying to compel their allies in the bloc to "march in step" in missile formation. The Netherlands Government has deferred the final decision on the deployment in the Netherlands of another 48 missiles until the middle of 1984. The Belgian Government, although it has now proclaimed yet again its loyalty to "Atlantic solidarity," has not given a specific date for accepting the U.S. missiles in its country.

USSR AMBASSADOR APPOINTED TO SWITZERLAND

PM061702 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Jan 84 First Edition p 6

[Unattributed "Chronicle"]

[Text] The USSR Supereme Soviet Presidium has appointed Ivan Ivanovich Ippolitov, USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Swiss Confederation.

ESCALATION OF TERRORISM IN LEBANON DEPLORED

LD061838 Moscow TASS in English 1704 GMT 6 Jan 84

["Escalation of Terrorism" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 6 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Boris Shabayev writes:

How many new innocent victims will a further escalation of the U.S.-Israeli aggression in Lebanon involve for the Arabs? We asked this question on January 2 in connection with apparent (?plans) of preparation for such an escalation. The answer came very soon: Only two days later the Israeli air pirates carried out a bombing raid on the Lebanese city of Ba'labakk. One hundred corpses have been found in the debris of apartment houses, hospitals, schools and mosques. Four hundred peaceful civilians, among them 150 schoolchildren, have been badly injured. A new tragic and mournful line has been added to the endless list of victims of vandalism perpetrated by the Israeli aggressors -- the people who met death under bombs and shells in besieged Beirut, brutally massacred in Sabra and Shatila, tortured to death in Al-Ansar camp and killed by the shells fired from the 16-inch guns of the "New Jersey" battleship.

The accomplices of the crimes unheard-of since the times of the Second World War are tying to cover up the traces, dodging and shifting and making one statement after another, trying to convince the public of their striving for "peace" and "security" in the Middle East. In Washington the main inspirer of the American-Israeli strategic alliance is trying to argue that he had nothing to do with that, while they in Tel Aviv are shouting at the top of their voices about some "terrorists". All that is a lie and sacrilege from beginning to end.

The massacre in Ba'labakk, the Politbureau of the Lebanese Communist Party points out in its statement, is one of the most repulsive examples of Israeli terrorism used by the Tel Aviv rulers against the Arab peoples. This crime, the Front for the National Salvation of Lebanon stresses, has been perpetrated with the knowledge of the United States, which is doing its utmost to prevent the freeing of Lebanon and restoration of its sovereignty. Even in Cairo the barbarous Israeli action was evaluated as a step "towards a further aggravation of the situation in the Middle East" although it was precisely there that the way was cleared for the Camp David [word indistinct] which gave Israel a free hand for a new war against the Arabs.

The United States and Israel are perpetrating brigandage and terror in Lebanon, crudely flouting all international laws and moral standards with the sole and definite aim of expanding their rule in the region, of turning Lebanon into a U.S. military springboard for launching strikes against the Arab countries and peoples which do not wish to subordinate to the regime of imperialist and Zionist diktat. It is for the sake of perpetrating these [word indistinct] designs that they are ready to spill a sea of Arab blood. But as Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said, the death of innocent peaceful inhabitants cannot undermine the determination of the Lebanese to carry on the struggle for the country's freedom and independence. The sole way towards establishing peace and ensuring security in Lebanon, he stressed, is through withdrawal of Israeli occupation troops from the country and restoration of the legitimate rights of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

The Lebanese people is not alone in its struggle for such a truly just and durable settlement of the conflict threatening the very existence of Lebanon as an independent and integral state.

CONDEMNATIONS OF ISRAELI RAIDS IN LEBANON ISSUED

LD071439 Moscow TASS in English 1322 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Beirut January 7 TASS -- American Marines, who form the backbone of the so-called "multinational force" in Lebanon, are trying to consolidate their foothold in this country. The newspaper AN-NIDA' reported that American engineer units have completed the building of underground bunkers for personnel and combat equipment in the area of the Beirut International Airport and dug out trenches from the airport to the coast, with ships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet cruising constantly in its vicinity. The Marine Command has contingency plans to use these trenches to move reinforcements, including tanks and artillery.

Israeli occupation troops in southern Lebanon are meting out repressions and violence against local inhabitants. Israeli troops staged wholesale round-ups and house-to-searches in Sidon and Tyre yesterday. In the village of Jibshit near An-Nabatiyah they opened fire on Lebanese civilians, killing one and wounding several of them. In the populated locality of Bayt Lif several houses were set on fire, the leader of the local branch of the Shi'ite movement Amal was killed, and the curfew was imposed.

In Sidon Israeli tanks moved into the streets of that major city in the Lebanese south, opening sporadic machine-gun fire and terrorizing the local residents for a long time. Scores of cars were smashed.

Lebanese patriots carried out several successful operations. They captured an Israeli intelligence officer near the populated locality of Ayn ad-Dulib. Israeli patrols were ambushed also elsehwere in southern Lebanon.

Work is continuing to remove the consequences of the Israeli bandit-style air raid on the town of Ba'labakk.

Rabat January 7 TASS -- Israeli is resorting to barbarous bombing runs on Ba'labakk and to other crimes in a bid to prevent national unity in Lebanon and a just solution to the Palestinian problem, said the Moroccan newspaper AL BAYANE. It said that Tel Aviv's Zionist chieftains are arrogantly flouting the basic standards of international law and U.S. resolutions.

Beijing January 7 TASS -- The newspaper RENMIN RIBAO published a comment, saying that the Chinese people strongly condemn Israel's latest bloody crime in Lebanon. Hundreds of people were killed and wounded in Israeli air raids on the Al-Biqa' Valley in recent days.

Developments in the past few weeks, RENMIN RIBAO said, have shown that Israel is steadily widening the scope of its aggression in Lebanon and throwing up more and more obstacles to a peaceful settlement in that country and to the resolution of the Middle East problem as a whole. Thereby, Israel, which is supported by the United States, recklessly maintains a policy of aggression and war, trying to throttle the just struggle of the Palestinian and all other Arab people.

Nicosia January 7 TASS -- The Cypriot newspaper KHARAVYI lashed out at the Israeli military for its piratic air raids on Lebanese populated localities. It said that it is mostly Lebanese school-children, old people and women that have fallen victim at the hands of the Zionist barbarians. The paper said that the Israeli military machine is being used by Washington for maintaining strong pressure on Arab countries.

Israeli Withdrawal Demanded

LD052334 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] The Israeli air force bombing of the town of Ba'labakk in the Al-Biqa' Valley of Lebanon, which caused the death of over 100 people and injuring of over 400 others, has aroused worldwide reactions. In noting that this Israeli Air Force raid was the biggest since the invasion of Lebanon in summer 1982, many organs of the mass media are linking the insolence of the aggressor with the support provided by the United States. Here is a news commentary. Vladimir Pashko is at the microphone.

The events in the Near East show over and over again just how pernicious the U.S. course is for the peoples of this region. It has led to the Israeli seizure of territories belonging to the Arab countries. It is nullifying the efforts of the Arab states to halt the internecine warfare in Lebanon. It is depriving the Arab people of Palestine of the opportunity to set up their own independent state. It has drawn the Armed Forces of the United States and NATO countries into the conflict on the side of Israel. Only those who are politically blind can today fail to see that U.S. imperialism's aspiration for domination of the Near East lies behind the U.S. rejection of the right of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination and Washington's policy of seeking a separate settlement of the Near East problem. All the unseemly features of the traditional divid-and-rule tactics can be seen in the events in the Near East. The Soviet Union has always proceeded on the basis that there exists a realistic opportunity for an overall settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the interests of all the peoples living in the region.

For this to happen the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories, the implementation of the lawful right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the creation of their own independent state, and the guaranteeing of the security and independent existence of all states and peoples in the Near East, including both the Patestinian people and Israel, are essential.

The principles for a settlement of the Near East conflict, which have been proposed by the Soviet Union, have been recognized basically by the overwhelming majority of members of the world community. The United States and its closest allies continue to be the principal obstacles on the path to a Near East settlement.

U.S. Silence Scored

LD061458 Moscow TASS in English 1348 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 6 TASS -- By news analyst Vasiliy Kharkov.

Alan Romberg of the U.S. Department of State cannot be described as untalkative, journalists (?indicate). To the surprise of the newsmen who gathered for a press conference at the State Department on Thursday, however, Romberg seemed to be a different man. When asked to comment on the Israeli air raid on the city of Ba'labakk in the Lebanese Al Biqa' Valley on Wednesday, he just kept mum. The official spokesman for the State Department refused even to express elementary regret over the immense human casualties inflicted by the raid. As is known, more than 100 people died, over 400 were wounded and many are missing as a result of the barbarous Israeli bombing. Heavy damage was caused to the city.

The entire world expresses its indignation at yet another outrageous action by the Israeli military. Washington is keeping silent on the matter, since this outrage was carried out by America's strategic ally who acts so brazenly with encouragement and full support from Washington.

UK STANCE ON MULTINATIONAL FORCE CRITICIZED

LD051948 Moscow TASS in English 1911 GMT 5 Jan 84

["Special Stand of Conservative Government" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 5 TASS -- TASS commentator Petr Parkhitko writes:

As the British FINANCIAL TIMES points out today, the United States, France, Italy and Britain whose military contingents are included in the composition of the so-called "multinational peace-keeping forces in Lebanon" come up against the growing criticism with regard to their further stay in Lebanon.

In the past the United States which advanced the idea of the creation of the "multinational forces" made a call to 15 states to participate in them. It is only Britain, France and Italy that accepted the U.S. proposal.

Further events showed that "multinational forces" of four NATO member states do nothing to "promote peace" in Lebanon. this was clear from the very start. Quite the contrary, these forces became a camouflage for outright armed intervention of the United States in that country.

Such activity of the "multinational forces" led only to the further aggravation of the conflict situation in Lebanon, played into the hands of the Israeli aggressors who have intensified their actions in the occupied part of Lebanon. This activity has become an illustration to the "strategic alliance" recently concluded between the United States and Israel in Washington.

In connection with the United States' outright aggression in Lebanon, casualties sustained by the U.S. and French military contingents, the obvious inability of the "multinational forces" to promote the solution of the problems of Lebanon the demands of the withdrawal increased also in those countries that had sent their soldiers to Lebanon.

Under the pressure of the public the Italian Government announced the decision to reduce its military contingent. The French Government is also manoeuvering.

A special stand among the United States' Western European allies in "multinational forces" is held by the conservative Thatcher cabinet. It insists on the preservation of the "multinational forces" despite the insistent demands of the British public, of Labour Party leaders and members of Parliament that these forces be withdrawn from Lebanon. The Conservative cabinet thus shows cynically again its complete disregard of the public opinion whenever the support for the course of the Reagan administration in some or other form is involved.

Meanwhile the White House Middle Eastern policy comes up against the ever stronger opposition in the United States. Many influential American politicians and public figures declare in favour of the withdrawal of U.S. Marines from Lebanon. A sharp criticism of the policy of the Reagan administration sounds, specifically, on the Capital Hill. The Associated Press reports that the ever greater number of senators demand immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces from Lebanon. Thus, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, influential Senator Charles Percy said on Wednesday that the continued U.S. military presence on Lebanese land is fraught with ever greater aggravation of the situation in that country...

JACKSON SYRIA MISSION PRAISED; U.S. POLICY HIT

PM090956 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Jan 84 Morning Edition p 1

[Own correspondent L. Koryavin Report under the rubric "Notes A Propos": The Fate of a Lieutenant and a Whole Country"]

[Text] Washington -- The plane flown by Lieutenant Goodman of the U.S. Navy was shot down by air defense as it was carrying out a reconnaissance flight over the positions of the Syrian troops which are in Lebanon on the decision of the Arab League. The pilot surrendered and was taken prisoner.

As already reported, the Syrian authorities released Goodman when one of the Democratic Party contenders for the post of U.S. President, J. Jackson, a representative of the country's black population, flew to Damascus.

His meetings and talks with the Syrian leaders showed that political dialogue is always more reliable than the language of guns, which is what the present U.S. Republican administration prefers to use in talking to Arab countries. The White House ignored the start of J. Jackson's mission to Damascus, stressing that it was not connected with the American leadership's Near East policy and was only an initiative by a "private individual." But Lt Goodman's return home took on elements of a traditional American sensation. He was seen on television screens and pictures of him appeared on the front pages of newspapers.

They put on a typical "show" on the White House lawn, inviting the lieutenant and dozens of journalists. The U.S. President personally welcomed him, trying to give his own Near East policy the coloring of "peacemaking." The White House weather vane is blown about by the winds of change. But what is the true picture? The Marines have become firmly entrenched in Lebanon, the muzzles of the battleship "New Jersey's guns are trained on Beirut, and American reconnaissance planes continue their fights over Syrian troop positions, taking off from the aircraft carriers, as did Lt Goodman's plane which was shot down.

AL-ASAD MEETING WITH LIBYA'S JALLUD REPORTED

LD061848 Moscow TASS in English 1718 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus January 6 TASS -- President of Syria Hafiz al-Asad today had a meeting with member of the revolutionary leadership of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah "Abd as-Salam Jallud. In the course of the talk the sides discussed the situation in the region, the situation in the Arab world and some other questions of mutual interests, the SANA news agency reports.

'Abd as-Salam Jallud handed over to the president of Syria a message from the leader of the Libyan revolution Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, pertaining to the situation in the region.

ANTI-AMERICAN FEELINGS SEENS INCREASING IN EGYPT

PM081759 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jan 84 First Edition p 5

[Dispatch by own correspondent V. Peresada: "Three Calendars; New Year Postcard"]

[Excerpts] Cairo -- The Egyptians greeted the New Year quite modestly. No all-night vigils or noisy feasts.

But then they can celebrate this holiday three times.

The point is that there are three calendars operating simultaneously in Egypt -- the Gregorian, Muslim, and Coptic calendars.

It is curious that many newspapers here are published with the dates of all three calendars. What are they writing about now?

Various things. The growth of GNP and the simultaneous leap in prices, the forthcoming parliamentary elections, the first since As-Sadat left the political arena, and the creation of new political parties. The latest arrests of rogue militiamen and the construction of the Cairo subway. But in the kaleidoscope of reports, articles, and commentaries there is one theme which clearly comes through, which is the main one for both Egyptians and other peoples. It is the theme of war and peace.

Particular alarm is generated here by the situation in the Near East, which was sharply aggravated immediately after the conclusion of the new agreements between the United States and Israel aimed at expanding their aggressive actions.

It is not surprising that Egypt skeptically greeted allegations from Washington and Tel Aviv that the consolidation of their alliance was dictated by the need to withstand the "Soviet threat" in the Near East. One famous Egyptian politician, former Egyptian Foreign Minister I. Fahmi, called these allegations ludicrous. Writing in the newspaper ASH-SHA'B, he noted that the "Soviet threat" is nothing but a myth, while Israeli aggression against the Arab countries perpetrated with U.S. support is an undisputed fact.

The rise in anti-U.S. feelings in Egypt has been a characteristic feature of the past year. And this is connected not only with the increased U.S. aggression in the Near East. In the country on the banks of the Nile, particularly among its progressive circles, there is increasingly loud talk of how Washington's Near East adventurism is just one manifestation of U.S. global strategy aimed against peaceful coexistence and cooperation and at foisting U.S. diktat on the world's peoples by any means, right up to the threat of nuclear war.

GILASHVILI ATTENDS PALESTINIAN ANNIVERSARY FETE

PM061436 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Jan 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Noteworthy Date"]

[Text] R.M. ash-Sha'ir, PLO charge d'affaires in the USSR, held a reception 4 January on the 19th anniversary of the Palestinian resistance movement. The reception was attended by P.G. Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and other officials.

BUHARI ADDRESS, U.S. COMMENTS ON NIGERIA NOTED

PM081705 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Jan 84 First Edition p 5

[TASS reports under general heading: "M. Buhari Statement"]

[Text] Lagos, 5 Jan -- The new Nigerian leadership is prepared to develop relations of friendship and cooperation with all states, Muhammed Buhari, chairman of the country's Supreme Military Council, has said. Addressing a meeting with representatives of the diplomatic corps, he stressed that the republic's government will unconditionally observe all Nigeria's bilateral and multilateral treaties and commitments. We intend to build relations with other countries on the basis of equality, mutual respect, sovereignty, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs, M. Buhari said.

Nigeria, the Supreme Military Council head said, rejects the attempts "of some states which regard themselves as 'democratic' to take on the defense of the 'democracy' which allegedly existed in the country under the former administration. It is well known that 'democracy' in the form in which it operated in Nigeria prior to 31 December last year actually served as a screen concealing economic chaos, unemployment, and corruption. We believe," M. Buhari stressed, "that statements of this kind are dictated by motives hostile to Nigeria."

Washington, 5 Jan -- The United States has issued another provocative statement with regard to Nigeria. Commenting on the events in that African country, a State Department spokesman in fact demanded that its government be guided by former norms of "democracy." As is well known, the Washington foreign policy department had previously officially expressed "regret in connection with the change of power in Nigeria." This demarche has been rightly assessed by agencies as an act of interference in the affairs of a sovereign state.

PRETORIA 'RACIST' POLICY IN ANGOLA CONDEMNED

LD062011 Moscow TASS in English 1925 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Luanda January 6 TASS -- The racist Republic of South Africa is broadening the proportions of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola. South African planes are bombing and shelling with rockets towns and villages of the People's Republic of Angola at a distance of up to 300 kilometres from the frontier with Namibia. Motorized units of interventionists, supported by tanks, artillery and aviation, intruded as deep as almost 250 kilometres into Angolan territory.

Having publicly announced "protection of Western interests" in the south of Africa as their aim, the racists are sowing death and destructions in Angola, runs a commentary of the ANGOP news agency. Aggressors set houses on fire, kill civilians, inflict a great damage upon the national economy of the republic.

The enemy of the Angolan people and other African peoples, ANGOP stresses, is not only the racist Republic of South Africa, but also those who through military and economic cooperation with the apartheid regime help strengthen Pretoria's military machine, who encourage racists' attempts to encroach upon the territorial integrity of African states.

Paris, January 6 TASS -- The South African invasion forces use on the Angolan territory chemical weapons, reports the newspaper LIBERATION. South African war planes, the newspaper points out, drop on settlements bombs stuffed with toxic agents.

Maputo January 6 TASS -- The Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique called upon the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to use all means at their disposal in order to put an end to the aggression of the racist Republic of South Africa against Angola.

Ethiopian Protest Issued

LD071605 Moscow TASS in English 1402 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Addis Ababa January 7 TASS -- The Ethiopian Government has demanded an immediate end to the South African racist regime's aggression against the People's Republic of Angola and an unqualified withdrawal of South African troops from Angolan territory. The Pretoria authorities, who have Western support for their actions, the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry said in a statement here, are flagrantly violating the main principles of relations between states. The South African military's unprovoked aggression against Angola, which has reuslted in the death of hundreds of civilians, is a gravest threat to peace and security not only in the south of Africa but also in the world as a whole, the statement said.

Belgrade January 7 TASS -- The Yugoslav Government has expressed deep concern at the continued, barbarous South African aggression against the People's Republic of Angola and the racist regime's occupation of part of Angolan territory.

Constantly threatening the independence and territorial integrity of Angola and other "frontline" states, the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia said in a statement, South Africa is trying to destabilize these countries and suppress the national liberation movements in southern Africa. Pretoria's actions show that the very existence of the racist regime is a threat to universal peace and security. The aggravation of the situation in the region demands urgent action on the part of the world community to curb South Africa, the statement said.

Paris January 7 TASS -- South Africa's large-scale armed incursion into Angola has the aim of toppling the lawful government of that country and force on it a regime that will suit Pretoria, the magazine JEUNE AFRIQUE said. The racists are hoping to extend the zone of their occupation in Angolan territory and to build stronghold bases there for terrorist counter-revolutionary groups.

The South African military's aggression followed the U.S. attack on Grenada, the magazine pointed out. The American invasion of that country served as a kind of signal to Pretoria to stage another act of interference in the affairs of a sovereign state.

New York January 7 TASS -- THE NEW YORK TIMES said that the Pretoria authorities were paying a dubious compliment to the American administration when they were saying that the South African armed operation against Angola was patterned on the U.S. invasion of Grenada. Commenting on a statement by the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the racist-ruled state, the paper actually admitted that the ongoing South African aggression against the People's Republic of Angola was inspired by Washington. Feeling itself fully under U.S. protection, the Pretoria regime believed itself entitled to have recourse to illegal methods, THE NEW YORK TIMES said.

SUPREME SOVIET CABLES CONDOLENCES TO GUINEA

PM061648 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 7

[TASS report: "Sincere Condolences"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has sent President Ahmed Sekou Toure of the Revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea a telegram expressing profound sympathy in regard to the natural disaster that has hit the country -- the earthquake that has claimed many lives and caused considerable material damage. The telegram conveys sincere condolences to the families of those who perished and suffered.

DEMICHEV DELEGATION ACTIVITIES IN CUBA REPORTED

Wreath Laying, Talks With Hart

LD062004 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0545 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Havana, 6 January. (TASS) -- A Soviet party and state delegation headed by Petr Demichev, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR minister of culture, which is staying here, laid a wreath on Thursday at the foot of the monument of Cuba's national hero, Jose Marti. Also taking part in the ceremony at the historic Revolution Square was Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee Poliburo, minister of culture of the republic.

A wreath was also laid on behalf of the Soviet delegation at the memorial to the Soviet internationalist soldier.

In the afternoon P. Demichev held talks with A. Hart Davalos. During the exchange of views they dealt with questions of the state of and prospects for further development of cultural cooperation between USSR and Cuba. A. Hart Davalos, having given a high assessment of cultural ties between the two countries, stressed that the forthcoming opening in Havana of the Western Hemisphere's first monument to V.I. Lenin will become a symbol of the strengthening of fraternal friendship of the Soviet and Cuban people.

P. Demichev handed A. Hart Davalos the first copies of a Russian-language version of the book by A. Nunes Gimenes "Forward With Fidel." In turn A. Hart Davalos handed P. Demichev and members of the Soviet delegation copies of the book "United People" which tells of Cuba's achievements in the 25 years since the revolution.

The Soviet delegation also visited the Higher National Arts Institute.

Unveiling of Lenin Monument

LD081937 Moscow TASS in English 1828 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Havana January 8 TASS -- TASS correspondents Aleksandr Voropayev and Nikolay Chigir report:

A ceremony to unveil a monument to Vladimir Lenin took place here today. Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and of the Council of Ministers of the republic, other Cuban leaders; and a Soviet party-and-state delegation led by Petr Demichev, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of culture of the USSR, arrived at Havana's park named after Lenin. It is over there that the first-in-the-American-Continent monument to the leader of the world proletariat has been erected. The arrivals were ardently greeted by many thousands of people of the Cuban capital.

The majestic white-marble monument resembles an unfolded banner in its outline. A three-metre sculptured portrait of Lenin is conspicuous against the white-marble background. The monument has been made from the famous Cuban "mother-of-pearl" marble produced on the youth island. Inscribed on the monument are the words and signature of Fidel Castro: "Lenin from the very outset was not only a theoretician of politics but also a man of action, a man of constant revolutionary practice which never ceased for a moment."

The state flags of the Republic of Cuba and the Soviet Union were solemnly brought in to a roll of drums and placed near the monument. The national anthems of Cuba and the USSR were played. A wreath of natural flowers in the form of Cuban national flag was laid at the monument.

Armando Hart, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and Petr Demichev made speeches at the ceremony. The meeting ended with the singing of the Internationale.

Demichev Speech at Unveiling

LD082231 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2129 GMT 8 Jan 84

[TASS report on 8 January speech in Havana given by Petr Demichev, USSR culture minister and CPSU Politburo member, at an unveiling ceremony for a monument to Lenin]

[Excerpt] Havana, 8 Jan (TASS) -- Then P.N. Demichev, head of the Soviet party and government delegation, spoke.

The unveiling of a monument to Vladimir Ilich Lenin in Cuba, he said, coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution, which paved the way to genuine freedom of the people and to accomplishment of profound and progressive social transformations. In connection with this momentous event, I have been entrusted, dear Cuban friends, to convey to you warm congratulations and wishes for fresh successes in socialist construction from the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet Government. Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, asked that his own personal congratulations and best wishes be conveyed to you.

This majestic monument clearly demonstrates the international significance of Leninism. It is a symbol of proletarian internationalism, of the historic revolutionary achievements of the Cuban people in the cause of building a new society, and a symbol of the inviolable friendship between the Soviet and Cuban peoples. V.I. Lenin, the great continuer of the cause of Marx and Engels, defined those roads that enable the great ideals of socialist equality and internationalist fraternity of peoples to be implemented in practice, the speaker continued. Under the influence of the great Leninist ideas the whole of the modern world was changed and is being changed.

The implementation of the ideals of Marxism-Leninism today is meeting with particularly fierce and violent resistance from the forces of reaction. "Gunboat diplomacy," methods of direct military intervention, "tiger cages," the bloody prisons of the puppet regimes like the Pinochet regime, the subversive acts of the CIA, provocations, lie and slander campaigns -- these are the methods used by modern imperialism in order to suppress the nations' freedom. The forces of reaction, by their policy, are now putting the very existence of mankind under threat. President Reagan has called the Soviet Union and the socialist countries "an empire of evil." Having discarded all moral principles in his policy and relying on international terrorism, he hypocritically makes judgments about freedom and human rights.

But in fact it blatantly ignores all the norms of international law. Examples of this were the piratical attack on Grenada, the aggressive intrigues against the Nicaraguan revolution and the military invasion of Lebanon. The hostile threats and slander against socialist Cuba are unceasing.

The characteristic profile of imperialism is being displayed everywhere: A criminal policy, flouting all norms and principles of normal relations between peoples is being raised to the status of "virtue," and depriving a people of the freedom won by them is pronounced the "restoration" of democracy.

Despite the very extensive protest of the popular masses, new first-strike nuclear missile weaponry is being deployed in Europe. The allies of U.S. imperialism in the NATO bloc -- primarily the Governments of the FRG, Britain, and Italy -- ignoring the will of the workers and the national interests of their countries are submissively following the ruinous path of their transformation into nuclear hostages of the United States.

Reagan's policy is leading to a dangerous exacerbation of the situation all over the world.

The Soviet Union, P.I. Demichev, continued, is making use of all its international influence and all its activities to strengthen the cause of world peace.

As Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov said, we are opposed in principle to competition in the production and stockpiling of mass destruction weapons. That is not our way. But we are under no illusions. We know that it is no use begging the imperialists for peace.

This is why the Soviet Union and the fraternal socialist countries for their part are forced to take responsive measures, in order not to allow the NATO bloc to achieve military superiority over the Warsaw Pact countries, not to allow the aggressor to unleash a nuclear war.

Dear Cuban friends, Soviet people express to you their ardent gratitude for your firm and active support for the statement made by Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov in connection with the deployment of the U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe, the speaker stressed.

The forces of peace are capable of winning a historic clash [sposobny vyigrat], with the forces of imperialist aggression and tying the hands of the political adventurists who are trying to play an irresponsible game with the fates of the peoples.

All peoples that have taken the path of socialism and follow consistently along the Leninist path have in short periods of time achieved huge successes in short periods of time, the head of the Soviet delegation said. Cuba's historic achievements are a vivid example of that. Cuba's transformation into the first socialist country in the Western hemisphere came to be convincing proof of the historic truth of Marxist-Leninist teaching. The Cuban people are rightfully proud of their remarkable achievements in the economy and in culture, in the development of national education and the health service and in forming the new person -- patriot and internationalist.

The Cuban's intrepid resolve to defend the gains of socialism despite the intrigues of imperialist reaction is the real embodiment of the idea of V.I. Lenin that any revolution is only worth something if it can defend itself. The correctness and revolutionary-transforming essence of Lenin's ideas are confirmed by the whole historical experience of the 20th century.

In contemporary conditions, the significance of consolidating the cooperation and cohesion of the socialist countries has increased, the speaker said. There are now objective requirements for the further improvement of the political cooperation of the socialist countries, taking account of the current international situation and particular features of it, and of the specific interests of individual states.

The CPSU consistently favors friendship with all socialist countries. We have every right to speak of feelings of true fraternal friendship linking the Soviet people to the heroic people of Cuba. These feelings acquired their firm social and ideological base when the Cuban people set out on the road of a liberating revolution, when the Cuban and Soviet people began shoulder to shoulder to solve most complex social, economic and cultural tasks.

The Soviet Union unswervingly displays solidarity with socialist Cuba and resolutely opposes provocations, pressure and threats directed against it.

The great ideas of V.I. Lenin opened the way to all nations to peace and social progress, the speaker stressed in conclusion. The historic future belongs to these ideas.

Award Conferred on Cuba's Roca

LD081411 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] The Soviet party and government delegation now in Havana, led by Comrade Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, USSR minister of culture, has visited the memorial to the yacht "Granma," which symbolizes the heroic armed struggle of the Cuban people against the imperialist dictatorship, for the freedom and independence of their homeland. The delegation acquainted itself with the sights of Havana.

Comrade Demichev presented the Order of the October Revolution to one of the oldest Cuban communists, Blas Roca, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, deputy chairman of the State Council of the republic. He has received this award for his great services to the development of fraternal friendship and all-round cooperation between the USSR and the Republic of Cuba, and in connection with his 75th birthday.

Present at the ceremony were members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Cuban CP, the State Council, and the Council of Ministers of the republic. Comrade Roca expressed gratitude to the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and to Comrade Andropov personally, and stated that he perceived the high Soviet award as a manifestation of the indestructible fraternal friendship between the peoples of the USSR and Cuba and their Communist Parties.

STONE MANAGUA VISIT PAYS 'LIP SERVICE' TO PEACE

LD061426 Moscow TASS in English 1312 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Managua January 6 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Trushin reports:

The U.S. President's special envoy in Central America, Richard Stone, paid a visit to the Nicaraguan capital. He was received by Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the steering council of the National Reconstruction Government of Nicaragua, by foreign minister Miguel d'Escoto, and also by leaders of the Catholic Church, the private sector and the right-wing conservative parties.

The Nicaraguan Government expected that President Reagan's envoy would bring practical proposals on ending U.S. intervention in Central America, a spokesman for the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry said. Judging by the fact that Stone refused to answer questions from journalists, no such proposals had been brought. A "peace gesture," as U.S. official propaganda touts the visit of the U.S. diplomat to Central America, is Washington's new show.

The United States uses it as a cover to arm dictatorial regimes, to step up war preparations, to revive the inglorious Central American Defence Council and to goad the counterrevolutionary Somosista gangs into an act of aggression against the Sandinista people's revolution.

Washington is stubbornly rejecting the proposal of the Nicaraguan Government to sign a bilateral peace treaty and putting a brake on the political initiatives of the Contadora Group. As Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto stated on the eve of Stone's visit, the Reagan administration is paying lip service to a political settlement of the Central American crisis while in reality regularly resorting to brute armed force.

While Stone was in Managua, a bandit attack was perpetrated on the Nicaraguan port of Potosi. The Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries based in Honduras invaded the territorial waters of Nicaragua in boats supplied by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and fired missiles at port facilities. Much damage was done to port property and there was loss of life.

NICARAGUAN INTERIOR MINISTER GREETS SOVIETS

LD011809 Moscow TASS in English 1749 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Managua January 1 TASS -- Tomas Borge, member of the national leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, minister of the interior of Nicaragua, has extended heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the Soviet people on the occasion of the new year. He pointed out in a TASS interview the great importance of the tireless struggle of the Soviet Union for removing the threat of a nuclear war which is intensified by the U.S.

The Soviet people who freed mankind from the yoke of Hitlerite fascism have gained the right to live and work in conditions of peace, Tomas Borge underlined. In the years that have elapsed since the establishment of Soviet power the Soviet Union has made an impressive headway in economy, science and technology. However, a very high level of cultural and intellectual development of the whole of the Soviet nation is its principal accomplishment.

Tomas Borge expressed high appreciation of the solidarity of the Soviet Union with the Sandinista revolution. Fraternal, friendly ties between Nicaragua and the USSR are getting ever more profound. U.S. imperialism should give up hope to undermine this friendship.

Nicaragua will never yield to imperialist diktat. Neither will it forgo its national dignity, T. Borge stressed. The Nicaraguan people are full of resolve to uphold freedom and independence of their homeland and the right to self-determination, gained as a result of the revolution.

IZVESTIYA CARRIES MORE SUPREME SOVIET SPEECHES

Azerbaijan's Khalilov

PM081455 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 3

["Abridged" version of speech delivered by Deputy K.A. Khalilov (chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium) of Baku-Shaumyanovskiy first electoral okrug, Azerbaijan SSR, at the 28 December afternoon session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities]

[Text] Esteemed comrade deputies! The CPSU Central Committee December Plenum summed up the results of party work done over the past year. Its documents and the propositions, conclusions, and recommendations advanced by Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, provide a profound and scientifically substantiated description of the modern stage of economic and cultural building, set specific tasks of the country's economic and social development for 1984, and define the most important directions of the working people's struggle to implement the plans of communist creation.

Embodying the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) and June (1983) Plenum decisions and Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's instructions on practical deeds, working people in all sectors of Azerbaijan's national economy are completing this year with good indicators. The annual plan for output sales and the production of many very important industrial products was fulfilled ahead of schedule -- 23 December. The republic's economy is developing at a stable pace, and weighty results have been achieved in enhancing production efficiency and the population's living standards. During the first 3 years of the 11th 5-Year Plan national income will have increased 17 percent and the volume of industrial production 18.2 percent -- which is higher than the 5-year target.

Despite the successes scored, we also see well the unresolved problems and shortcomings. The republic party organization directs soviet and economic organs and the efforts of all Azerbaijan working people toward revealing and realizing new reserves for accelerating the growth rate of social production and improving its efficiency.

Comrade deputies! An important role in resolving the national economic tasks facing the republic belongs to the soviets of people's deputies.

The resolution "On the Work of Azerbaijan SSR Soviets of People's Deputies in Fulfilling the Demands of the Legislation on Strengthening Labor Discipline and Ensuring the Rational Use of Labor Resources," which the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium adopted in June of this year, gave us great assistance in enhancing the soviet's organizing role. The USSR Supreme Soviet session can be informed that losses of worktime in production have been reduced in the republic, organization and businesslike efficiency in work have been enhanced, and the role of labor collectives has increased considerably -- which has been promoted to a tremendous degree by the law on labor collectives adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Comrades! The elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet will be an important event in our country's sociopolitical life. The entire election campaign and the elections will be a powerful new manifestation of the further development of socialist democracy and an exacting review of the activities of the soviets of people's deputies and all state organs and will serve as a tremendous mobilizing factor in fulfilling specific tasks of the economic, sociopolitical, and spiritual development of Soviet society. (applause)

RSFSR's Kazakov

PM081502 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 6

["Abridged" version of speech by Deputy V.I. Kazakov (deputy chairman of RSFSR Council of Ministers) of Promyshlennyy electoral okrug, Bashkir ASSR at the 28 December afternoon session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities]

[Text] Comrade deputies! Our country's working people are entering the new year -- 1984 -- with a feeling of justified pride in their achievements. Confident strides in the economy, the constant growth of the people's well-being, and the USSR's ever increasing international prestige confirm the correctness of the party's policy.

Recently the statements by Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov in connection with the deployment of U.S. nuclear missiles in Europe resounded throughout the planet, carrying much authority and weight. Soviet people fully and entirely approve the measures which are being adopted by our state to enusre security and preserve peace on earth.

Comrade Deputies! The CPSU Central Committee plenum which has taken place approved the draft State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR and the draft State Budget of the USSR for 1984. Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's speech contained an in-depth analysis of the development of the country's economy and formulated the tasks facing the party and the country in the coming period. The country's draft plan and budget which were submitted for examination by the USSR Supreme Soviet were drawn up in accordance with the party's long-term economic program, are distinguished by their enhanced social orientation, and fully correspond to the interests of our people. I propose that they be approved with the amendments and additions introduced by the standing commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers.

In regard to the RSFSR, the 1984 Plan sets new and responsible tasks. National income is to be increased by 4.2 percent. The fuel and energy complex sectors will develop at a preferential rate. It is planned to increase gross agricultural production by 5 percent, and the RSFSR'S Nonchernozem zone will be further developed. More attention will be paid to a most important social task -- the provision of the population with essential goods. The republic government and local soviets have adopted a number of measures to reveal additional commodity resources.

But nonetheless, the full satisfaction of the population's requirements for goods which are in demand is being hampered owing to delays in augmenting capacities in the light and food industry sectors. The relevant resolutions on the production of essential goods and goods for which there is mass demand and on a more thorough processing of livestock products are not being fulfilled satisfactorily. It has been estimated that given, a corresponding increase in capacities for the processing of sugar beet and dairy products, the national economy could obtain annually an additional 40,000-50,000 metric tons of sugar, 30,000 metric tons of cheese, and 50,000 metric tons of dried skimmed milk without increasing the volume of raw material purchases.

Group "B" enterprises are in need of serious retooling. Machine building is lagging behind modern demands in regard to these sectors. The country's interests demand the rapid retooling of light and food industry enterprises. Taking into consideration the state of capacities of the Ministry of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances, we regard it as essential that the USSR Gosplan also involve the other machine building sectors in this work.

Furthermore it is necessary to increase the interest of oblasts and republics in increasing the production of goods. At present almost all the most important goods manufactured by local industry enterprises and other republic ministries and departments are included in USSR Gosplan, USSR Gossnab, and USSR Ministry of Trade distribution tables and plans. This also applies to cutlery, meat grinders, glassware, zinc-plated utensils, and hardware fittings and locks. We believe that it is necessary to revise and cut down the list of centrally distributed goods. It would also be expedient to let republics dispose of the additional volume of goods manufactured through local initiative.

Comrade deputies! Soviet people are embarking on the implementation of new plans in communist building confidently and calmly and with a feeling of pride in their country. RSFSR working people will counter international reaction's intrigues and attempts to increase tension by strengthening the economy, enhancing discipline and order, and successfully fulfilling the set targets. (applause)

Kazakh's Yesetov

PM081526 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 6

["Abridged" version of speech by Deputy T. Yesetov (first secretary of the Kzyl-Orda Party Obkom), SSR, at the 28 December afternoon session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities]

[Text] Esteemed comrade deputies! The results of the Central Committee plenum that has been held and the text of the speech of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, have made a deep impression on us all. We will adopt these most important party political documents for strict guidance and execution.

Comrades! The draft State Plan for Economic and Social Development and the USSR draft Budget for 1984 which were submitted for examination by the USSR Supreme Soviet session fully and entirely reflect the aims and tasks mapped out by the 26th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums. They provide further evidence of the fact that there is no more important cause for the Communist Party and the Soviet state than concern for people, for strengthening the economic and defense might of our beloved motherland and ensuring that all the fraternal republics of the land of soviets flourish.

Multinational Soviet Kazakhstan's working people are making a tangible contribution to the implementation of the communist building program. The republic's diversified industry has successfully fulfilled the plan for the first 3 years of the 5-year plan in regard to the production of the most important types of industrial goods. During this year, which was most difficult for agriculture, the republic has made a great contribution to the country's food resources by delivering around 15 million metric tons of grain to the motherland's granaries, with strong, hard, and valuable wheat varieties accounting for 80 percent of the total. Kzyl-Orda Oblast working people, too, have greatly contributed to these achievements by the republic.

Comrade deputies! At the same time we are clearly aware that the economic results could be even more substantial if we were able to activate more fully all available reserves and potential.

Mention must be made of certain factors which are hampering the development of the economy which must be examined by the USSR Gosplan and union ministries if they are to be eliminated.

It is well known that the key problem in further boosting agricultural production under our conditions is irrigation and land reclamation. In this connection an expert commission of the USSR Gosplan last May approved an adjusted scheme for the comprehensive utilization of Syr-Darya basin water resources, according to which the water supply limit in the lower reaches of the river was set at 12 cubic kilometers during normal years, and at 10 cubic kilometers during years when water levels are low.

Despite this, the USSR Ministries of Land Reclamation and Water Resources and of Agriculture are planning to let our oblast have only 7.7 cubic km in 1984, which is by no means enough for the planned sowings of agricultural crops, not to mention other needs.

Another problem is land. Since it was commissioned -- that is, for more than 15 years -- irrigated land has been used without any essential repair and restoration work being carried out. Over large areas the surface of rice fields has become deformed and part of the land is even dropping out of use owing to the poor state of the soil. In order to prevent this, it is necessary to carry out large-scale rehabilitation [pereustroystovo] of this land.

However, the volume of water resource construction work is getting smaller with every year and commissioning plans are regularly not being met.

And another question. Taking into account the need to sharply increase rice production, the directive organs have adopted a special resolution which provides for the construction of the Kzylordarismash Plant for the production of special rice harvesting machinery. The first building of this plant has been commissioned ahead of schedule. However, the Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building plans to commission only half as many production capacities in the 12th 5-Year Plan. In our view it would be expedient if the Kzylordarismash Plant was included in the list of most important projects approved by the USSR Council of Ministers.

Allow me to assure the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the Soviet Government that Kzyl-Orda Oblast working people, like all the Soviet people, will spare no effort and energy to achieve new labor victories in 1984 and the 11th 5-Year Plan as whole and will thus make a worthy contribution to the implementation of their dear Communist Party's plans. (applause).

Ukraine's Kolomiyets

PM081533 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 6

["Abridged" version of speech by Deputy Yu. A. Kolomiyets (Ukrainian Council of Ministers deputy chairman) of the Zhitomir electoral okrug, Ukrainian SSR at the 28 December afternoon session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities]

[Text] Esteemed comrade deputies! The present USSR Supreme Soviet session is taking place in an atmosphere in which the Soviet people, under the tested leadership of the Communist Party, are embarking with great labor enthusiasm on the final stage of the struggle to meet the targets of the 11th 5-Year Plan.

The speech of comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the Central Committee plenum analyzed comprehensively and profoundly the party and people's tremendous work to implement the historic decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, spelled out the tasks for the further development of the country's economy and the improvement of the people's well-being, and determined the ways of implementing them.

The working people of the Ukraine, like all other Soviet people, unanimously support our party's domestic and foreign policy and are expressing their readiness to increase their contribution to the strengthening of our motherland's economic and defense might.

The draft State Plan and Budget for 1984 which are under discussion today envisage the further social and economic development of the country as a whole and of each individual republic. I therefore propose that these very important documents be ratified taking into account the amendments and additions suggested by the standing commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers.

The draft plan envisages the further development of the Ukrainian economy and culture. The planned rate of increase will help to consolidate the positive trends which have emerged this year and will form a reliable foundation for the further successful development of all sectors of the national economy.

In recent years the republic has implemented specific measures to develop the agro-industrial complex. Purposeful work is being done to improve soil fertility and the crop structure and to introduce scientifically substantiated arable farming systems. This is the purpose of the comprehensive targeted "Agrokompleks," "Sakhar," and other programs.

But in order to successfully resolve the tasks facing the Ukrainian SSR in the context of the country's Food Program and to make arable farming stable, the republic needs assistance from union organs. As is known, chemicalization plays a very important part in improving all agricultural crop yields. Recently new, highly-productive strains of grain and industrial and other crops have been extensively introduced. They require a high degree of soil preparation and if there is a shortage of nutrients in the soil, most of them will fail to realize their potential and the yields may even be lower than those of old strains. But deliveries of mineral fertilizers to kolkhozes and sovkhozes are not growing quickly enough and needs are not being fully met. Planning organs and chemical industry enterprises should take a sharp and rapid increase in production and deliveries to kolkhozes and sovkhozes of mineral fertilizers which are well balanced in terms of their nutrient content.

Comrade deputies! We are currently discussing the next plan for the development of our country in an exceptionally complex international situation. It is described very fully and thoroughly in Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's 28 September and 24 November statements. These statements met with the widest possible response in our country. Soviet people share the alarm expressed in them at the war threat being fueled by imperialism and fully support the part and government's measures to strengthen the country's defense capability.

I propose that the current USSR Supreme Soviet session adopt a resolution approving the statements by Comrade Yu.V. Andropov and the peace-loving Soviet foreign policy course confirmed in them. I believe that by adopting such a document the deputies will be expressing the thoughts and wishes of their voters and of the entire Soviet people. (applause)

Georgia's Kartvelishvili

PM081713 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec Morning Edition p 4

["Abridged" version of speech delivered by Deputy D.L. Kartvelishvili (chairman of the Georgian Council of Ministers) of the Ordzhonikidzevskiy electoral okrug, Tbilisi, Georgia, at the 20 December afternoon session of USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union].

[Text] Esteemed comrade dputies! The working people of Georgia, ardently supporting the party's Leninist domestic and foreign policy, together with the entire Soviet people wholly approve the results of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum. They are fully determined to steadfastly implement the conclusions and propositions advanced at the plenum by Comrade Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The draft State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR and the draft USSR State Budget for 1984, which are being discussed at the current session, are oriented toward the dynamic development of the national economy of the country as a whole and of each union republic individually. Taking account of this, we support the submitted proposals on approving and ratifying the country's draft plan and budget for the coming year.

At the same time, I would like to say something about certain questions connected with implementing the outlined program for economic and social developments.

We are concerned primarily about the formulation of indicators for the republic's industry. The tasks arising from the need for regional development are not being taken fully into account in the economies of a number of union ministries, in particular the Ministry of Power and Electrification, the Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry, the Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry, the Ministry of Light Industry, and a number of others, and the 1984 targets are being set lower than envisaged by the 5-year plan.

I would like to broach another question, whose resolution would, in our view, greatly help improve labor collectives' interest in increasing export deliveries and creating new types of products, including consumer goods which have higher export potential. The increasing tightening up and complexity of rules and rights in this sphere, in our view, has resulted in adverse consequences. In practice, both union ministries and Councils of Ministers at local levels are deprived of the opportunity to dispose of even minimum funds, channel allocations into the development of any particular production unit, or purchase equipment and the necessary materials on the basis of foreign currency allocations. We would deem it expedient to make union republic Councils of Ministers responsible for determining how the resources created in the republics as a result of the overfulfillment of export plans should be used.

Permit me to assure the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the Soviet Government that Georgia's working people will exert all their efforts and energy to fully implement the national economic plans and tasks set us for 1984. (applause)

Turkmenistan's Atayev

PM081720 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 3

["Abridged" version of speech delivered by Deputy B. Atayev, (first secretary of Tashauz Turkmen Communist Party Obkom)of the Kunya-Urgenchskiy electoral okrug, Turkmen SSR, at the 28 December afternoon session of USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities]

[Text] Esteemed comrade deputies! In discussing today the draft State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR and also the country's draft State Budget for 1984, we all feel the tremendous mobilizing and inspiring influence of yesterday's CPSU Central Committee Plenum. CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's profoundingly pithy plenum speech provided a comprehensive analysis of our party's activity in implementing the program outlined by the 26th CPSU Congress for the country's further development for the 11th 5-Year Plan and the subsequent period, and laid down specific measures to ensure an increase in production efficiency and the growth of the Soviet people's well-being.

Today, Soviet people's creative work and all their thoughts are linked with the struggle to preserve peace. The statement by Comrade Yu. V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, of 24 November this year -- which was approved and supported by the whole Soviet people -- is imbued with concern for peace.

Comrade deputies! The draft Plan and Budget for 1984 submitted for examination by the present session ensure the further ongoing socioeconomic development of the country as a whole and of each union republic individually. For this reason I, like the previous speakers, ardently support the proposals on approving and ratifying the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR and the USSR State Budget for 1984 taking into account the amendments of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers' standing commissions.

At the same time, in connection with discussing the draft plan and budget, I would like to dwell on certain questions connected with the implementation of the Food Program. The start of construction of the Tashauz Canal from the Tuya-Muyun Hydrosystem has been welcomed by us as evidence of the constant help and concern of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers. It is difficult to overestimate its importance for arable farming in the oblast and republic. There are currently more than 1 million hectares of untouched land in the oblast. This is very fertile land of ancient arable farming, and opening it up requires no additional expenditure apart from expenditures of irrigation. The opening up of this land in the next few years would make it possible to increase raw cotton production 50 percent and also to considerably increase output of livestock products.

Construction of the canal, whose estimated cost is R150 million, is expected to take almost two 5-year periods. In the 2 years which have elapsed since the start of its construction, R20 million of capital investments have been assimilated. In this connection we ask the Gosplan and the USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources to examine the question of an annual increase in capital investments with a view to reducing the period of construction and providing the construction project with modern excavating machinery and other material and technical resources.

In 1984, now beginning, the Turkmen SSR and Turkmen Communist Party are 60 years old. The working people are fully determined to greet this important date in a fitting manner. (applause)

Uzbekistan's Karimov

PM081733 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 2

["Abridged" version of speech delivered by Deputy A. Karimov (first secretary of the Surkhandarya Obkom) of the Denau electoral okrug, Uzbek SSR, at 28 December afternoon session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities]

[Text] Comrade deputies! Unanimously approving and supporting the domestic and foreign policy of the Communist Party and the Soviet state and the measures aimed at safeguarding the security of the USSR and the other socialist community countries clearly set forth in the statement by Comrade Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, our oblast's working people, together with all Soviet people, are working on the completion of the plan of the pivotal year of the 5-year plan and laying the foundation for the forthcoming year of 1984. The collectives of the oblast's industrial enterprises fulfilled the plan for the first 3 years of the 5-year plan for production and labor productivity growth ahead of schedule, 1 December.

In fulfilling the instructions of Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, it is essential to create economic and organizational conditions encouraging high-quality productive labor, initiative, and enterprise; measures have been implemented in the oblast for the further introduction of the collective contract. In 1982 some 86 percent of field cultivating teams in our oblast worked under the collective contract, while this year all the production collectives in plant growing have switched to this progressive method of work and it has also begun to be introduced in stockraising. The results are obvious. Average annual gross output has increased greatly and money receipts from the sale of agricultural products have risen by one-third. The total profit of kolkhozes and sovkhozes per hectare of irrigated land has almost doubled. There are no more loss-making cotton farms in the oblast.

Allow me, comrades, to dwell on a few problems.

Defoliants for the artificial defoliation of narrow-staple cotton plants are inefficient: they are harsh on unripe fruit, causing considerable damage to the cotton yield and quality. The main thing is that they do not fully meet agrotechnical requirements, which obliges us to undertake repeat cultivation involving considerable additional material expenditure and loss of time during the harvest.

Mention must also be made of the fact that existing technology for harvesting and preparing cotton is designed for medium-staple strains, while it is imperfect for fine-staple strains. This question is not yet being resolved.

Comrade deputies! The drafts of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR and the USSR State Budget for 1984 submitted for the present session's examination accord with the tasks of the 11th 5-year Plan and our state's economic policy elaborated by the 26th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums. I subscribe to the proposals voiced earlier that these documents be approved.(applause)

Tajikstan's Makhkamov

PM081737 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 5

["Abridged" version of speech delivered by Deputy K. Makhkamov, (chairman of the Tajik SSR Council of Ministers) of Dushanbe electoral okrug, Tajik SSR, at the 29 December morning session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union]

[Text] Esteemed comrade deputies! The year of 1983 has been an important stage in the struggle to fulfill the plans for the country's economic and social development and to implement the foreign and domestic policy defined by the decisions of the 26th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums.

Indicators for the fulfillment of plans in the majority of sectors of the national economy improved this year in the republic, as they did throughout the country. Cadres' organization, efficiency, and responsibility have been markedly enhanced, state and labor discipline has strengthened, and production, scientific, and technical potential has begun to be used more fully and efficiently. As a result the national income produced will increase 3.8 percent by comparison with last year.

A new step forward has been taken in developing the agro-industrial complex and implementing the Food Program.

Unfortunately, despite all efforts, the plan for raw cotton procurements has been somewhat underfulfilled. But the lessons and experience of this year will undoubtedly be an aid in the cotton growers' struggle to make good their arrears unconditionally and to fulfill the targets for the 5-year plan as a whole. Scaling the 5-year plan heights set by the 26th party congress is the prime objective set for the entire Tajik economy.

Comrade deputies! The large-scale prospects for our motherland's development for 1984 which we are discussing are yet further testimony to the consistent implementation of the CPSU's economic strategy aimed at ensuring that the people's living standard improves with every passing year.

As in the other fraternal republics, a broad program will be implemented in the Tajik SSR for economic and sociocultural building and the development and modernization of the base industries, the agro-industrial complex, and transport and communications. It is planned to further increase the production of consumer goods and to expand their range and improve their quality, and a considerable increase is planned in capital investments channeled into constructing housing and other sociocultural projects.

But, unfortunately, hithches are already arising. The USSR Ministry of Construction, for instance, has earmarked only one-third of the minimum capital investments required to build up the production base. We ask the minister, Comrade G.A. Karavayev, to examine the matter and take the necessary steps. We hope that the USSR Gosplan will not stand aloof either.

Comrade deputies! Like the other speakers, I warmly support the proposal to approve the State Plan for Economic and Social Development and the USSR State Budget for 1984. (applause)

CPSU POLITBURO SESSION DETAILS REPORTED

LD091157 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Jan 84 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the CPSU Central Committee Politburo"]

[Text] At its routine session the CPSU Central Committee Politburo examined a number of questions connected with implementation of the decisions of the December 1983 CPSU Central Committee Plenum.

It was noted at the session that the decisions and materials of the party Central Committee plenum and the ninth USSR Supreme Soviet session were greeted by the working people of the country as an energetic program of struggle to attain new achievements in the economic and social development of our homeland and the strengthening of its defense potential.

Those taking part in the plenum unanimously approved the Politburo's activity and the assessments and conclusions contained in the speech at the plenum by Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, on basic questions of party and state socioeconomic policy and further improvement of the well-being of the Soviet people. At the same time, speeches by participants in the plenum, which were constructive and critical, continued a considerable number of suggestions and remarks and raised substantial questions to do with the work of a number of sectors of the national economy, perfecting the system of management, improving the use of available reserves and eliminating shortcomings.

Heeding the great importance of the remarks and suggestions made at the CPSU Central Committee plenum, the Politburo decided to send them to the corresponding USSR ministries and departments for examination with the participation of local party bodies and for the necessary practical measures to be taken for their implementation.

The importance of the task set by Comrade Andropov of making a good start from the very first days of the new year, while maintaining the tempo which has been achieved, and organizing widespread socialist competition in order to ensure unconditional fulfillment of plan tasks and to use all possibilities for their overfulfillment was stressed yet again at the session of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee. In the process the main emphasis must be placed on raising the level of management, the acceleration of scientific and technical progress, fuller use of production potential and material, labor and financial resources, increase in labor productivity, reduction of costs and intensification of the economy drive at every enterprise and construction site and within every economic organization.

The CPSU Central Committee Politburo examined and approved proposals aimed at improving the conditions in which pupils are maintained at general education boarding schools, children's homes and other boarding establishments. It is envisaged, in particular, to exempt single mothers and families in which the overall average income for each member of the family does not exceed R60 a month from the payment for the maintenance of children at boarding schools. It is planned to improve the provision of boarding school students with clothing, footwear and equipment and also to carry out certain other measures intended to create more favorable conditions for children in boarding schools and children's homes. Additional allocations totalling R40 million are being assigned for implementation of these measures, which affect about 1 million students.

Information was given about the trip to Argentina by a Soviet delegation led by Comrade Barkauskas, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The desirability of further development of good, mutually-advantageous relations with that country was noted.

The session of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee discussed and adopted decisions on certain other questions concerning the country's internal affairs and the foreign policy of the Soviet Union.

RSFSR SUPREME SOVIET SESSION HELD 5 JAN

PM061225 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 6 Jan 84 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "At the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium"]

[Excerpts] A routine session of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium was held on 5 January.

The session noted that the working people of the RSFSR, like those of the whole country, have received with great anthusiasm the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum and the plenum speech by Comrade Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, which gives an in-depth analysis of the results of the creative work of the party and the people in the present 5-year plan period, precisely defines the key problems in developing the national economy, outlines specific ways of resolving them, and underscores the need for considerably stepping up work to improve economic leadership. The results of the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum and of the 9th session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 10th convocation, have aroused in Soviet people a desire to work in an even better, more efficient and more organized way and to fulfill successfully the targets and socialist pledges for 1984 and the 5-year plan as a whole.

The Presidium examined questions connected with the holding of the 8th session of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, 10th convocation and approved proposals for the forthcoming session's agenda and order of business.

The Presidium heard a report by V.I. Semonov, chairman of the Gorkiy Oblispolkom, on the work of the oblast's soviets in fulfilling the RSFSR's Food Program in the sphere of increasing the production and storage life of agricultural products.

The Presidium also examined a number of questions connected with the practical application in the RSFSR of the USSR law "On the Status of People's Deputies in the USSR."

The session also examined other questions of state life in the republic.

The session was conducted by M.A. Yasnov, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Maslennikov, Bobrovnikov Speak

LD062216 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] A session of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation opened in Moscow today. A report on the Plan for the Social and Economic Development of the RSFSR for 1984 and about the fulfillment of the plans of last year was delivered by Deputy Maslennikov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR, and chairman of the republic's State Planning Committee.

He noted that the present session was taking place in an atmosphere of nationwide political and labor upsurge caused by the decisions of the December Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the past session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The speech of Comrade Andropov at the plenum set tasks on key economic problems -- the acceleration of intensification of production, improvements in utilization of productive and science and technology potential, perfecting the economic mechanism, and developing the initiative of cadres and raising their responsibility for matters in their charge.

Soviet people, the rapporteur stressed, fully and totally approve and support the decisions of the December party Central Committee Plenum and the USSR Supreme Soviet session, and also the profound assessments and conclusions on the basic directions of the development of the national economy contained in the plenum speech of Comrade Andropov.

At the meetings taking place in the country to nominate cnadidates for deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the working people are stating their resolve to fulfill and overfulfill the current year's production plans. They are actively struggling to strengthen state plan and labor discipline.

The rapporteur went on to talk about the results of the development of the national economy of the Russian Federation in 1983. He noted that there had been a rise in the rates of economic growth. There was been some improvement in quality indicators and in the level of fulfillment of plans for industry, transportation and construction. There was an increase in production of agricultural goods. The population's real incomes grew. All of this created good prerequisites for intensifying economic and social development of the RSFSR in 1984.

The draft plan for this year, the rapporteur stressed, sets out such rates that correspond to the talks posed by the party in developing the economy, and in strengthening the positive trends of last year. The plan is directed to a greater degree than before toward raising production efficiency. Its social direction is being stepped up. Everything necessary to maintain the country's defense capability at the necessary level has been envisaged.

Deputy Maslennikov went on to describe the most important, key tasks of the plan for economic and social development of the RSFSR for 1984. The draft envisages that the republic's national income will grow this year by 4.2 percent. The volume of industrial output will increase by 3.5 percent, while the growth of gross agricultural goods will increase by 5.6 percent. It is worth noting that over 90 percent of the increment in industrial output and the entire increase in gross output of agriculture, construction, assembly work and freight handling are to come from raising labor productivity. This will be achieved through wide introduction of scientific and technical achievements in all areas of the national economy.

The December party Central Committee plenum concentrated attention on ways, means and methods of achieving the aims posed. Labor collectives of Russia, the speaker declared, view the need to strive for an above-plan rise in labor productivity of 1 percent and a reduction in cost of goods by an additional 1/2 of 1 percent as an additonal party assignment. Economic progress will permit, as is noted in the draft plan, a rise in the material prosperity and cultural level of the people.

It is planned that real incomes per capita in the RSFSR will increase by 3.6 percent. House construction of a total area in excess of 61 million square meters is envisaged on the territory of the republic. This will allow almost 6 million people to improve their living conditions.

The RSFSR's economy is a major integral part of the single national economic whole. In order to ensure a further increase in production potential of the Russian federation, the 1984 plan envisages measures for integrated economic and social development of all autonomous republics, krays and oblasts.

The deputies were also presented with a report on the RSFSR budget for 1984 and the execution of the republic's budget for 1982. The report was delivered by Deputy Bobrovnikov, RSFSR finance minister. He noted that the basic resources of the budget are being directed to financing the national economy and sociocultural undertakings, for which R88.5 billion have been designated. This is 97 percent of the entire budget expenditure. The RSFSR finance minister spoke in detail on what money will be spent on the development of the republic's economy and on social and cultural undertakings.

Deputies Maslennikov and Bobrovnikov expressed confidence that the republic's workers will mark the 4th year of the 5-year plan with new work successes, and will thereby make a worthy contribution to strengthening the economic and defense might of our homeland. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet is now debating the draft plan and budget of the republic for the current year.

Plan, Budget Law Adopted

LD062233 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] An RSFSR Supreme Soviet Session was held in the Kremlin today. The deputies greeted comrades Aliyev, Vorotnikov, Grishin, Gromyko, Solomentsev, Tikhonov, Ustinov, Chernenko, Dolgikh, Kuznetsov, Ponomarev, Zimyanin, Kapitonov, Ligachev, Rusakov and Ryzhkov, with prolonged applause.

A report on the program for the socioeconomic development of Russia in the past year and on fulfillment of last year's plan was delivered by Deputy Maslennikov, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Republic's State Planning Committee. A report on the republic's draft budget for 1984 was delivered by Deputy Bobrovnikov, the RSFSR finance minister.

After the reports there was a debate. Deputies spoke of their full support for the party's policies, the decision of the December CPSU Central Committee Plenum and the assessments and conclusions on the main trends in the development of the national economy contained in Comrade Andropov's speech.

The deputies unanimously adopted an RSFSR law on the republic's Plan and Budget for 1984 and decisions on progress in plan fulfillment in 1983, and on approval of the report on the budget performance in 1982. The session considered the question of endorsing the decrees of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, adopted the corresponding laws and decisions, and then finished its work.

Television Coverage

LD061518 [Editorial Report] Moscow television service in Russian at 1404 GMT on 6 January carries a video report on the opening of the eighth session of the 10th RSFSR Supreme Soviet in Moscow with video showing Menteshahvili, Chernenko, Ustinov, Grishin, Gromyko, Aliyev, Solomentsev, Vorotnikov, Ponomarev, Tikhonov, Kuznetsov, Dolgikh, Kapitonov, Zimyanin, Rusakov entering the hall followed by pan shots of leaders in the presidium and showing the following lineup: (all from left to right): Second row: Ustinov, Gromyko, Chernenko, Tikhonov, empty seat, aisle, Ligachev, Ryzhkov and Rusakov; third row: Dolgikh, Ponomarev, Vorotnikov, Grishin, empty seat; aisle, Zimyanin; fourth fow: Kapitnonv, Kuznetsov, Solomentsev and Aliyev as well as shots of Gribachev, Malennikov and Bobrovikov addressing the session.

GOSPLAN OFFICIAL EXPLAINS ECONOMIC EXPERIMENT

PM061141 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Jan 84 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with L.A. Voronin, first deputy chairman of the USSR Gosplan, by IZVESTIYA correspondent V. Sukhachevskiy under the rubric "Economic Experiment": "Advantageous to the Plant -- Advantageous to the State" -- no date or place given]

[Text] Question: First of all, Lev Alekseyevich, please accept our congratulations for the new year. I suppose that the workers of the country's supreme planning organ will certainly sense business motivations in this greeting. Best wishes for the new year mean wishes for new and very complex work, for a difficult quest for the best solutions.

Answer: Thank you. You are right. There is much work ahead of us. As Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, noted, it is very imporant to set a businesslike mood in work from the very first days of the new year, regardless of the difficulties, quite a few of which lie ahead. There are still weak points in our planned economy. It is necessary to choose the most efficient directions of national economic development and discover the main links which will make it possible to rapidly advance the country's economy.

Question: The economic experiment which is starting in the new year is probably meant to help attain precisely this goal?

Answer: Without any doubt.

Question: What prompted its introduction?

Answer: As is well known, the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers adopted in July 1983 a resolution on additional measures to expand the rights of production associations (enterprises) in industry in planning and economic activity and on increasing their responsibility for the results of their work. The All-Union Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building and Ministry of Electrical Equipment Industry, the Ukrainian Ministry of Food Industry, the Belorussian Ministry of Light Industry, and the Lithuanian Ministry of Local Industry will begin a large-scale economic experiment in the new year. Its purpose is to intensify the interest and responsibility of associations and enterprises in the elaboration and fulfillment of plans and in the fuller utilization of production reserves.

In the USSR Gosplan's view, the need to take additional measures stemmed primarily from the fact that the previously elaborated measures to improve the economic mechanism were not being introduced comprehensively and consistently enough. Thus it was not possible to ensure the prescribed procedure and timetables in elaborating plans for the 11th 5-Year Plan because of difficulties in balancing the economy. There was some delay in informing ministries and enterprises of the control figures. As a result, the work to conclude economic contracts became complicated and the necessary material reserves were not established.

Apart from this, a number of important and, I would like to emphasize, fundamentally correct provisions of the resolution on improving the economic mechanism failed to have the expected influence on the intensification of production because the specific ways of implementing them proved insufficiently effective in practice. For example, we failed to ensure stability in the normatives for wages per ruble of output, which made it more difficult to make wide use of the Shchekino experience.

The normative net output indicator, on which we had pinned great hopes for improving the evaluation of enterprises' work, proved controversial. The principle of the differentiated selection of indicators for evaluating the activity of and providing incentives for enterprises in different industrial sectors in view of the specific nature of their work was insufficiently developed too.

The large number of indicators set by the 5-year plan, broken down by year, and the economic normatives based on these indicators formed an inflexible mechanism which could not take into account changing conditions during the 5-year period when the annual plans were elaborated.

The essence of the current experiment is not to replace the existing economic mechanism. Its purpose is to find ways of implementing the previously elaborated principles that will ensure their consistent and complete introduction in life.

It is a question here of further strengthening the centralized leadership of the economy, with a leading role being played by the 5-year plans, and of the priority development of production on the basis of retooling, modernization, and the development of enterprises' financial autonomy, initiative, and responsibility in the efficient utilization of the funds allocated to them by means of a reduction in the number of plan indicators set from above and the stability of economic normatives.

Question: What will this mean in practice?

Answer: The new system of indicators and normatives is more flexible than the one currently in use. It makes it possible to ensure observance of the proportions envisaged by the 5-year plan between the growth of output, labor productivity, and profits on the one hand and the increase of the wages fund and the production development fund on the other hand. It must be emphasized that a more realistic possibility is being created for involving enterprise collectives in the elaboration of intensive plans. The use of stable economic normatives is envisaged at all stages, beginning with the preparation of the draft plan. The combination of the state's interests and labor collectives' interests during the elaboration and fulfillment of plans is being strengthened. The funds received by enterprises for remuneration and social development and for the improvement of production will be directly dependent on the end result of work.

As an instrument for providing incentives, the normatives will play an important mobilizing role. Their utilization in conjunction with the fund-forming indicators approved in the 5-year and annual plans is meant to provide enterprises and associations with stable conditions for economic activity during the 5 years and to make the funds received by labor collectives for remuneration, social development, and the retooling of production directly dependent on the end results of their work.

It is important to note that some of the funds generated by highly productive labor will be guaranteed to remain with the enterprise instead of being reallocated by a superior organization to the benefit of other plants or associations.

It is planned to increase collectives' responsibility and interest in providing the national economy and the population with the necessary output by means of a switch to the evaluation of their activity by all superior organs primarily according to the indicator of fulfilled volume of output sales in accordance with concluded contracts, instead of the current evaluation according to the total volume of output sales (normative net output).

This means a principled turnabout in defining the main goals of labor collectives' work. Instead of the orientation primarily toward the fulfillment of the "gross" value indicator, the enterprises are geared to producing a detailed range of output within the time limits and in the quantities envisaged by the contracts.

It was noted at the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum that the party attaches great importance to conducting the economic experiement in the five sectors. Certain new elements of management will be tested during its course. Their results will serve as a basis for the preparation of appropriate proposals for the national economy as a whole. We must begin the 12th 5-Year Plan with a well organized economic mechanism.

Comrade Yu.V. Andropov has especially stressed that an urgent task in the improvement of planning and management is to select the most effective direction for national economic development and the main links which make it possible to rapidly advance the country's economy along the intensive path.

Question: Highly productive work by enterprises is advantageous to the state and to society. This is self-evident. Bearing the new conditions in mind, what will such work give to the labor collective and each working person?

Answer: I will give a simple example. It has already been noted that the experiment brings to the forefront the indicator of output sales in accordance with delivery contracts. Let us assume that an enterprise is in breach of the products range and fails to fulfill its contractual obligations. Say the deliveries plan is two percent "short." The economic factor comes into operation at once -- each such percentage point costs the collective three percentage points in its material incentives fund. Poor work will be followed by punishment in rubles.

Question: And will good work be rewarded?

Answer: Without any doubt. Given total fulfillment of the output deliveries contract, there is a 15-percent increase in the material incentives fund.

Enterprises and associations are acquiring broader rights in the utilization of the wages fund, calculated according to the approved indicators and normatives. Increased additional payments and temporary bonuses can be introduced in the wages of highly qualified personnel. This removes the existing restrictions on the dissemination of the progressive Shchekino method, whose aim is to perform a larger volume of work with fewer workers.

The significance of the fund for social and cultural measures and housing construction in resolving the tasks of the social development of labor collectives is being increased. What is intended here is that this fund will gradually become the main source of improvements in the working people's social, housing, and living conditions. In contrast with current practice, the fund for social and cultural measures and housing construction will be formed not according to the size of the material incentives fund, but in light of the dynamics of labor productivity growth. In this way, the improvement of housing conditions for workers in enterprises and associations will be closely linked with one of the most important indicators of production efficiency.

When evaluating the proposed measures aimed at strengthening the link between the size of collectives' wages fund and the end results of their work, as well as the measures for the freer utilization of their existing wages fund to encourage the frontranking, best qualified workers, it must be borne in mind that this will lead to a greater differentiation in wages than at present, both between enterprises and between individual workers. At the same time we consider that such a differentiation is justified and necessary to ensure the interest of labor collectives in the utilization of production reserves. It will place those who work well in an advantageous position.

It is intended to expand the practice of normative payments from profits into the budget in ways which take account of the specific features of individual sectors. With normative payments which do not fluctuate during the year, the size of the profits remaining at the disposal of enterprises and associations will depend directly on the financial results of their production and economic activity, which is a step forward in strengthening financial autonomy relations.

Question: One last question, Lev Alekseyevich. The economic leaders with whom I have had an opportunity to speak about the experiement voiced the following fears. Here you have, they said, a plant which will operate under the new conditions. But it is tied by hundreds and thousands of threads of economic relations to enterprises remaining outside the experiment. Someone will fail to meet the deliveries plan, someone will fail to provide the right raw or other materials.... The plant could find itself in a difficult situation. What is envisaged in such instances?

Answer: The USSR Gossnab has prepared a special resolution on the timely and complete provision of material resources for associations and enterprises transferred to the new conditions of work. This document provides that, in order to enhance the responsibility of suppliers for the delivery of products to enterprises involved in the economic experiment, the USSR Gossnab's supply and sales organs will issue the consumers in question with schedule-orders marked "experiment." In addition to this, the USSR Gossnab Collegium has adopted a number of decisions making it possible to monitor in a timely fashion the process of supplying the enterprises working in the new style and to resolve with ministries' participation practical questions of supplying in 1984 according to the products list products distributed by the USSR Gossnab and ensuring the assimilation of the funds allocated to these enterprises.

An order has been prepared and adopted on increasing timeliness in solving questions of material and technical supplies to enterprises participating in the experiment, on the uninterrupted delivery of raw materials, fuel, and materials to them, on shipping out finished products, and on prompt payment for them by their recipients. At present the commission for overall leadership of the economic experiment set up by the government is working with the interested ministries and departments on the practical implementation of this order.

Question: I should imagine, Lev Alekseyevich, that we have considered only a few aspects of a complex economic problem....

Answer: Yes, only some individual aspects of it. In conclusion I would like to stress that serious work remains to be done in studying the results of the activity of enterprises and associations which have transferred to the new conditions of work and in analyzing and evaluating the new socioeconomic trends that have emerged during the work of these collectives. It will be necessary to elaborate recommendations on disseminating and simultaneously refining the experiment. You see, today we regard it as only the first stage of work to improve the utilization of our economy's unlimited reserves.

GOSSTROY CHIEF VIEWS 1984 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

PM061211 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jan 84 First Edition p 2

[Article by S.V. Bashilov, chairman of the USSR Gosstroy: "The USSR on the Construction Site"]

[Text] The same ruble, invested in construction, can yield different returns. It depends on whether it is used to erect a new shop or modernize an old one, whether it is spent on walls or on the machine tools installed within them. The return is higher in the second case each time. That is why the plan for the new year increases even more than formerly the proportion of expenditure on equipment -- the active part of fixed capital. It accounts for 42 percent of state capital investments, as compared to 39 percent under the 5-year plan for 1984.

The volume of resources channeled into the modernization and retooling of existing enterprises has also increased. It is R2.3 billion more than was envisaged in the 5-year plan for this year. Among the enterprises where renewal will be carried out actively are the Novokrivorozhskiy Lenin Komsomol Mining Enrichment Combine, the Berezniki Azot Associaation, the Yubileynaya Mine, the Magnitorgorsk and Karaganda Metallurgical Combines, and a large number of enterprises in other sectors.

The decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the December (1983) Plenum of the party's Central Committee make it incumbent on all participants in construction -- clients and construction workers, planning, finance, and supply organs, designers, and suppliers of equipment, structures, and materials -- to sharply step up the effectiveness of capital investments. To this end it is necessary to radically improve the organization of the construction process, concentrate forces and resources on projects scheduled for completion, commission them more rapidly, and bring them up to design capacity more quickly. This turn toward intensive development factors can be clearly traced in the plan for this year, which devotes particular attention to the program of projects scheduled for completion. I would like to draw the attention of the newspaper's readers to the fact that the rate of growth of fixed capital commissioning outstrips the rate of increase in the volume of capital investments. This will make it possible to reduce the volume of uncompleted construction by R3.5 billion. This means the funds and resources invested will be recovered more quickly.

In allocating capital investments, account was taken of the requirements of all sectors of the national economy and the social thrust of the plan was strengthened. Let us look at the map carried on the first page. [page 1 has a sketch map of the USSR depicting the main agricultural and industrial projects] Priority attention is devoted to the fuel and energy complex -- the core of the economy. At new and existing power stations, power units with a total capacity of 13.5 million kw will be commissioned. The nuclear power industry will grow rapidly -- the first power units at the Balakovskaya, Zaporozhskaya, Yuzhno-Ukrainskaya, and Kalininskaya AESes and the second phases of the Smolenskaya and Kolskaya AESes will become operational. Current will be supplied by new units at the Kolymskaya, Cheboksarskaya, and other GESes, and first and foremost by two turbines each with a capacity of 640,000 kilowatts at the Sayano-Shushenskaya GES. In accordance with the program for the development of the country's integrated power system, the length of electricity transmission lines will increase by 34,000 km.

The volume of capital construction in the oil and gas industry will increase considerably.

Gas pipelines from Urengoy to the center, Yelets to Kursk and Dikanka, Minsk to Gomel, and Khiva to Beybay will come into operation. The Mubarek Gas Processing Plant, the second phase of the Orenburg Helium Plant, and installations at the Chimkent Oil Refinery will be completed. The coal industry will receive new capacities for the extraction of 20.5 million metric tons of coal a year, including the Neryungrinskiy opencut mine in Yakutia, the Azeyskiy 50th Anniversary of the USSR opencut in Irkutsk Oblast, and the Pavlovskiy No 2 opencut in Maritime Kray. The construction of fuel and energy projects will be speeded up by the flow and modular methods of construction, the installation of equipment in large units, and the comprehensive team contract.

All the participants in the investment process must work seriously to step up considerably the construction of new capacities and the modernization of existing ones in metallurgy. Everyone needs metal. In capital construction alone, nearly 20 million metric tons of it is used every year. There is an urgent need for rolled metals hardened by heat treatment, sheet and plate metal with coatings, and roll-formed and high durability steel sections. Projects are to be commissioned for the extraction of 20 million metric tons of iron ore, including capacities at the Kostomuksha, Stoylenskiy, Lebedinskiy, and Rudnogorskiy Mining Enrichment Combines. Small capacity plans in Belorussia and Moldavia will begin producing metal, and output will increase at the pioneer of metallurgy without blast furnaces, the Oskol Electrometallurgical Plant. In Cherepovets the construction of the world's biggest blast furnace, with a volume of 5,500 cubic meters, will continue. But alongside the growth in the volume of metal production, it is necessary to ensure its more economical use in all sectors. At least 5 percent must be saved in construction this year.

Machine building has a decisive influence on the scale and tempo of the retooling of sectors of the national economy. Here capital investments are being allocated first and foremost for the renewal of veteran plants. This will enable them to switch over rapidly to the production of the most progressive machines, for which the national economy's demand is growing constantly. New capacities will be created at the Kharkov Kirov Turbines Plant, the Volgodonsk Atommash Plant, the Krasnoyarsk Heavy Excavators Plant, the Uralsk Voroshilov Turbomotors Plant, the Gorkiy Milling Machines Plant, and in Moscow, Leningrad, Rostov-na-Donu, Minsk, and many other cities.

More than R38 billion is allocated for the development of sectors in the agro-industrial complex, including the construction of projects making it possible to preserve agricultural products better and process them in good time. Housing, cultural, and consumer construction in the countryside will take place at a higher rate than envisaged in the 5-year plan.

The country's labor rhythm is largely determined by transportation arteries. This year, through traffic by trains on the Baykal-Amur Railroad will begin. It is planned to commission more than 360 km of new railroad lines and about 700 km of second tracks, and to electrify more than 1,000 km of railroads. Loading complexes will be commissioned at the sea ports of Yuzhnyy, Ilichevsk, Poti, Yalta, Magadan, and Vladivostok, as well as mechanized wharves on the rivers. The network of roads for general use will increase by more than 12,000 km.

As always, attention is focused on questions of social development and increasing the people's well-being. From all sources of finance, housing with a total area of 109 million square meters will be built and millions of people will receive well-appointed new apartments. The transition to progressive types of apartment blocks must be accelerated, and the plan structure and cost of housing must be strictly adhered to.

To satisfy Soviet people's requirements for consumer goods, enterprises and shops for the production of furniture, clothing, footwear, and textiles will be commissioned.

Last year's results indicate certain positive trends which have developed in the sector. But in general, the state of affairs here requires substantial improvements. It is necessary from the very first days of the year to set a high pace, improve the organization of construction production, extend the rights of organizations and enterprises, and increase their responsibility for the results of work.

"Here, as everywhere, the key to success," Comrade Yu.V. Andropov said, "is to increase cadres' sense of responsibility and ensure high exactingness toward them for the faultless execution of their duties, efficiency, initiative, and the unconditional fulfillment of the tasks set. It is from this angle that we must assess the activity of our construction ministries and their collegiums and territorial organs, and their leaders' work."

Construction ministries must increase the capacities of their subordinate organizations in regions where the program for contract work is growing particularly rapidly. Flexibility must be increased in construction. It is important to implement as quickly as possible the conversion of estimate documentation in accordance with the new norms and prices being introduced this year.

Today more than ever before, there must be heightened attention toward improving the technical level of construction and its industrialization and strengthening all components connected with creation and introduction of new technology and leading experience. The technical level of enterprises in all sectors and their productivity are determined to a decisive extent at the design stage. That is why it is necessary to improve design and estimate work with a view to ensuring that new enterprises are technically advanced and produce high quality output for the least possible expenditure of labor and materials, and that environmental conservation is ensured to the highest possible degree and rational use is made of natural resources. The role and responsibility of territorial planning organizations in implementing an integrated technical policy and ensuring the high quality of plans drawn up will be increased.

Labor collectives in the sector have great reserves for improving their work and imposing order in construction production. In order to successfully fulfill the construction program for the fourth year of the 5-year plan, it is necessary to utilize these reserves, boldly make use of leading experience and the achievements of scientific and technical progress, and comprehensively improve the economic machinery.

LABOR PRODUCTIVITY IN NEW YEAR STRESSED

LD081906 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 8 Jan 84

[From the Vremya newscast; video commentary by political observer V.P. Beketov]

[Text] Hello, comrades! The first working week of the new year showed that the production collectives have made a good start and are maintaining the proper tempo of work. Throughout the country, socialist obligations and counter-plans are being adopted for the fourth year of the 5-year plan.

Their nature is to a large extent determined by the decisions of the December Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the appeal by Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov to achieve an above-plan growth in labor productivity of one percent and a reduction in prime costs by a further 1/2 percent. One percent, and 1/2 percent:

For leading collectives, this would not seem to be such a complex task. But here we are not just talking about the leading ones. The point is to bring into the competition for overfulfilling the plan the broadest masses of the working people, to reduce manufacturing costs in each subsection of production. And then the above-plan one percent of growth of labor productivity will amount to additional millions of square meters of housing and tons of coal, billions of kw hours of electricity and cubic meters of gas. And a reduction in prime costs of 1/2 a percent will provide several billion rubles in saved resources.

Among the originators of the new initiative are leading collectives of Moscow and Leningrad, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Georgia, and other cities throughout the country. Their experience also shows the ways of achieving this aim: speeding up mechanization and automation of production; the development of the brigade forms of labor; raising the qualifications of cadres; and strengthening discipline.

An example of a businesslike attitude to this matter is set by the Muscovites, who for many years in succession have fulfilled ahead of schedule their tasks for the main indicators.

Today, the collectives of the capital's enterprises are setting themselves new tasks: to deliver production as specified and on time, in accordance with contractual obligations; resolutely to reduce low productivity manual labor. They are paying great attention to the production of high-quality consumer goods. Thus this year, overplan production of these goods will amount to a value of 250 million rubles.

In light of the instructions of the CPSU Central Committee, special attention should be paid to raising the rate of use of equipment per shift. Production assets are our wealth, and must be fully used. This is just how the matter is seen at the Sumy Frunze Engineering Association. Here they strive for the maximum increase in output of production from each machine, unit, and installation. However, we still have enterprises where production capacities are not assimilated for a number of years, and where there are losses of raw material, other materials, fuel and power; and the most considerable and widespread loss is loss of working time. The reduction of these losses constitutes a vast reserve in our economy.

The new initiatives include much valuable experience of past years. In this connection I should like to recall such movements as 'Manual Labor Onto the Shoulders of Machines' which developed at the initiative of Zaporozhye workers; the initiativ of Sverdlovsk builders 'Five-Year Task With Less People,' and the long-standing, much-used, but still today retaining significance, Shchekino method.

At the routine session of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, the need for the widespread development of socialist competition was stressed, in order to secure the unconditional fulfillment of plan tasks and the utilization of all possibilities for overfulfilling them.

LATE DECEMBER WEATHER, CROP STATUS REPORTED

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[USSR Hydrometeorological Center report prepared by agrometeorologist A. Grishina: "The "The Weather and the Crops"]

[Text] The weather remained unusually mild in the European territory of the USSR in the final 10 dyas of December. The average temperature for the 10 days was 5-10 degrees above the perennial average in most regions, 2-3 degrees above average in Krasnodar and Stavropol Krays, and near normal in the authonomous republics of the North Caucasus.

The temperature rose to 6-10 degrees on some days southwest of a line linking Riga, Minsk, Sumy, and Volgograd, 11-14 degrees in Moldavia, the southwest Ukraine, and the south of the North Caucasus Region, and 17 degrees on the south coast of the Crimea. North of this line the daytime temperature reached to 1-5 degrees.

The minimum temperature in the Baltic region, the Northwest, Southwestern Central and Central-Chernozem regions, Moldavia, and most of the Ukraine and the North Caucasus Regions was between zero and minus 10 degrees. On some nights, the temperature fell to between minus 23 and minus 26 degrees only in certain parts of the Urals Region.

The soil had thawed over most of the Ukraine and the North Caucasus Region, in the south of the Volga Region, Moldavia, southwest Belorussia, and western parts of the Baltic region. The ground was frozen to a depth of 30-65 cm in most oblasts in the Central-Chernozem and Central Regions, the northern half of the Volga Region, the south of Perm Oblast, and the northern Urals Region, and to a depth of 10-25 cm elsewhere.

A slight growth of winter grain crops was noticed on some days of the final 10-day period in Moldavia, the Ivano-Frankovsk, Chernovitsy, Odessa, Nikolayev, Kherson, and Crimean Oblasts, and Kransnodar Kray. In the rest -- the greater part -- of the European territory of the USSR the winter grain crops were in a state of winter dormancy. They were under snow north of a line linking Riga, Mogilev, Belgorod, Voroshilovgrad, and Kharabali (Astrakhan Oblast). In the Northern Region, the north-east of the Northwest Region, the northern Volga-Vyatka and Central Regions, the Urals Region, and most of Saratov, Kuybyshev, and Orenburg Oblasts the snow cover increased to 30-40 cm at the end of December with over 50 cm in places. In the remaining regions it was 2-8 cm, with 10-15 cm locally. The minimum temperature at winter crop tillering node depth remained within the range of zero to minus 4 degrees.

The weather remained very mild for the time of year in most arable farming regions of West Siberia and Kazakhstan. The average temperature over the 10 days was 4-10 degrees above the perennial average. It was 1-3 degrees above average in the east of Kemerovo Oblast an the Altay Kray and below average -- by 1-4 degrees -- only in Chimkent and Dzhambul Oblasts. And the southeast of Alma-Ata and Taldy-Kurgan Oblasts.

Winter grain crops were under 20-30 cm of snow in most of Tyumen and Tomsk Oblasts, southeast Novosibirsk Oblast, and in Kemerovo Oblast, and under 45-55 cm of snow in Omsk Oblast. In the remainder of Novosbirsk Oblast and in the Altay Kray the snow cover was shallow (less than 10 cm). Minimum soil temperature at winter crop tillering node depth remained within the range of from minus 2 to minus 4 degrees. The overwintering of grain crops has been proceeding well.